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THURSDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2011

## LLANDOW EARMARKED FOR EXPLORATORY BOREHOLE...

# Deadline for gas drilling project objections today

A local man, whose business is yards from the proposed site for the drilling of natural gas on Llandow Industrial Estate, said he is

Report by **TIM CHAPMAN**

"absolutely mortified" at the prospect.

Mr Tony John, the owner of Elizabeth-Anne

Childrenswear Ltd, said as soon as he found out what was happening, he decided he would make an objection to the Vale Council.

Coastal Oil and Gas, based in Bridgend Industrial Estate, believes there could be commercial quantities of 'shale gas' 700 metres below ground.

However, there are concerns over the process of extracting the gas, commonly known as 'fracking'. Hydraulic fracturing involves pumping a mixture of sand, water, and chemicals underground at high pressure to break up the shale and release the gas.

But Mr John said what was being delivered underground was a dangerous cocktail and could have damaging consequences.

"I was absolutely mortified when I heard what might happen. I already knew what 'fracking' was, and I wouldn't want it in this country. In New York there is a ban on fracking.

"My business is a stone's throw away from the location and I am worried about the possible consequences with chemicals being used nearby."

Mr John explained that 'fracking' (or fracturing) involved explosions and that his fear was that toxic chemicals would get into underground water and contaminate springs and wells as far away as Cowbridge, and elsewhere in the Vale.

"If anyone wants to

know more about fracking, all they have to do is put a search into Google or You Tube - it is a major concern."

Alun Cairns MP met the managing director of Coastal Oil and Gas, Gerwyn Williams last week and the company emphasised that its application was merely for an exploratory bore hole only - to look for the presence of shale gas.

Mr Cairns said that he had informed Coastal Oil and Gas of the concerns and alarm already expressed within the communities of Llandow, Llysorweny and surrounding areas.

Mr Cairns said: "I was pleased to be able to meet with Mr Williams to find out more about their plans and processes for the site."

"I re-iterated to Coastal Oil and Gas the very real concerns and alarm regarding their planning application within the western Vale community."

"The controversy in the US is so great that New York State has imposed a moratorium on all fracturing."

"There is a committee of MPs in Westminster investigating the matter, and I have tabled Parliamentary Questions to the Minister to clarify the latest policy guidance."

Recently, Mr Cairns raised concerns about the release of chemicals into the local environment during the drilling process, and fears of a toxic and carcinogenic impact on the area.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



ABOVE: Llanfair Primary School pupils had a non-uniform day for Red Nose Day. TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH WAS RAISED, TURN TO PAGE 4.

## New curator for museum

**COWBRIDGE** Town Museum, which is located in the town hall, has a new curator in 22-year-old Arran Rees.

Arran, who is from Merthyr Tydfil, said that a visit to the museum had inspired his immediate interest.

"I responded to an advert at the National Museum of Wales, was interested, went along and was fortunate to be offered the post."

"I will be working behind the scenes on the museum objects and the interpretation provided, but the front of house volunteers will continue to do their work."

"The challenge is exciting and everyone in Cowbridge has been supportive."

Arran, a collections assistant in the Cardiff Story Museum, is currently undertaking a course in 'museum studies' at Leicester University.

Despite a busy schedule, he said that aside from his work as curator, he would always be there when the public is admitted.

"I will be at the museum every time it is open," he promised. Arran has taken over from Mrs Pamela Robson, who fulfilled the role for six years.

The museum is open on the first Saturday of the month, between the hours of 11am and 4pm.



Arran pictured alongside one of the exhibits in the old jail.



**Cowbridge town barber of 14 years, Nick Marley is now joined by Sean Sweeney.**  
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## CUTS: 'There IS an alternative..'

**I**T was good to see many people turn up in London to campaign against the Con Dem Government cuts; it is important that people speak up for public services and say No to these deep and savage cuts to jobs and services.

It seems the Conservatives and their Lib Dem allies have one answer to the financial crisis caused by greedy bankers, and that is to cut services – regardless of the impact and devastation it will cause to our society.

I believe that cuts to public services are not inevitable; they are really a political choice.

The Government claims it has no choice,

but there is an alternative – closing tax loopholes, taxing the banks and outrageous banker's bonuses, and slowing down these savage cuts to keep people in work.

The Government needs to change course; there really is an alternative, yet they are choosing to ignore it. Why?

Nearly half a million people from all walks of life, including doctors, nurses, teachers and firefighters took part in this protest against what the Government is doing, and rightly so.

Remember, Margaret Thatcher tried to cut her way out of a recession in 1979 and made the economic situation worse – and it looks like Cam and Clegg are going the same way. Please say no to the cuts!  
**Coun Richard Bertin, (Independent member, Vale of Glamorgan Council).**

## 'Barry people's views ignored'

**I** WAS proud to be a part of the protest to rescue the Theatre Royal, Barry, on March 18; however, I was appalled when I read comments made by the managing director of Hafod, Robert Wathen.

He stated that: "The location is perfect for a development of this type."

If he actually lived in Barry, he would know this to be complete and utter nonsense!

Many have already pointed out that there are no spaces for car parking and that it is right next to the Savoy, where people tend to loiter and every now and then the odd fight breaks out.

Surely the Dock/Waterfront would

be a better location for the care home? The people of Barry are being disrespected and their opinions ignored.

In December, there was a public meeting at Barry Memorial Hall where Hafod revealed their plans for the site.

It was held four days before Christmas when there was snow everywhere – I'm not surprised it was "sparsely attended".

If this proposal goes through, then we have lost another facility! No wonder I always find myself on the train to Cardiff all of the time.

The planning committee should refuse permission for the extra care home to be built, but since most of them aren't actually from Barry, why should they care!

**Michael James Moore (Documentary film student)**

## 'Be more responsible'

**I** FEEL I have to respond to the recent GEM article about the young man who was refused a Jobseeker's allowance.

It seems his mother and four siblings live on state hand-outs, so why on earth is she having another child for us to keep?

If people can't or won't work, then they should be more responsible. They can go on the pill, which would cost them nothing, but would save this country a fortune.

Sally Dixon, Barry

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# WARNING TO VALE COUNCIL TENANTS: 'THERE'S NO GOING BACK AFTER HOUSING TRANSFER'

**T**HE vote for transfer from Vale Council to Heritage Coast Homes is now upon us and I would like to remind tenants that housing stock transfer is one way only. There will be no return to council-maintained homes if you are disappointed with the service.

Future tenants will not have the security of a local authority controlled home.

An internet search suggests rent and evictions invariably increase after stock transfer.

If there is a yes vote, land transferred to the private landlord could be subject to further development.

The Vale Council have a viable retention plan if tenants choose to stay with them.

They have £15 million in their housing revenue account and work would start on roofs

and guttering in 2011.

The updating of kitchens and bathrooms would start in 2012.

The council also offer many of the services that Heritage Coast Homes are offering, such as tackling anti-social behaviour.

Please think carefully before you use your vote – as there's no going back...

Trudi Watts, Barry

## What about our Welsh farmers?

**I**N The GEM on March 24, Chris Franks AM praises the organisers and supporters of Fairtrade.

I feel it is a shame, and somewhat of a disgrace, that Mr Franks and the Fairtraders do not have any concern for the 310 Welsh dairy farmers who went out of business last year due to low milk prices.

According to an NFU report, the average cost of milk production is 29.1p per litre – but the average milk price is 25.94p per litre, a gap of 3.16p.

Furthermore, DEFRA

has forecast that dairy farms will suffer a 24 per cent fall in income for this year.

Perhaps Mr Franks will let readers of The GEM know of any concerns he may have for Welsh dairy farmers. Would he also inform us if the Chilean farmer's visit was funded by the Assembly and if there are any plans for AMs to visit foreign farms so that they may 'report back' on how Fairtrade is benefiting said farmers?

**Anthony Bright, Penarth.**

## Fairweather parking checks!

**W**HY are the Cowbridge PCSOs and traffic wardens only coming out to do their job when the sun is shining and the weather is glorious?

This is when people park sensibly and don't mind walking. We never see them when it is raining and this is the time when people park anywhere and everywhere to avoid getting wet.

(Name and address supplied)

## Victims forgotten in the world today

**D**O prisoners have the right to vote? Absolutely not! By committing, and being found guilty of a crime against the law, a prisoner automatically gives up his 'rights'.

I, too, like to think I am a Christian. God made laws – the Ten Commandments are easy to follow.

Laws are there to protect society; break them and you give up your rights. Talk to victims of crime about rights – these people are forgotten in our world today.

**Mrs Bernie McLeer, Bridgend**

## 'Dismayed at old town attitude'

**I** AM the Secretary of the Llantwit Chamber, main organisers of the Llantwit Major Victorian fair and Christmas lights event.

The Victorian Fair, to be held on June 18, will stretch throughout the town as normal, and I expect, as in previous years, it will be standing room only at the Square by 2pm!

The Christmas lights also stretch throughout the town, with the

switching-on ceremony by the shops, as in most other towns.

I am rather dismayed at the old town attitude of some of your readers. In my opinion, buildings do not make a town – people do; buildings do not make a community people do – and people are the heart of any good town.

From my personal experience, community spirit is alive and well in the whole of Llantwit Major, which is something we should all celebrate and be proud of.

**Janet Moisan, Llantwit Major.**

## Vale MP hits back over viewpoint

**I**N last week's GEM, Mr Short asked my position on the UK's nuclear fleet.

I am a strong supporter of its replacement as an independent deterrent.

Political opponents also questioned how I can defend the closure of Barry Magistrates' Court and support the government's plan to reduce the nation's debt?

I can easily do so because there are other, better options.

The activity of Caerphilly court is much lower than Barry; it is closer to Cardiff and the town is much smaller than Barry.

This is why the Vale

Council is pursuing a Judicial Review.

I can also defend the decision to cancel the UK's largest ever PFI project for St Athan, Metrix, because I believe that the training Academy options being considered by the MoD (of which St Athan is a front runner), will be better value for money.

We cannot continue to spend money in a profligate way. Savings have to be made. Surely, it is wrong to spend £120M per day on interest on the nation's debt.

How many businesses, individuals or families could continue to borrow a quarter of all their expenditure? **Alun Cairns MP, Vale of Glamorgan**

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[www.cowbridge-today.co.uk](http://www.cowbridge-today.co.uk) or  
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## Town's landmark will be lost forever

**I**T is now approaching three years since Barry's Theatre Royal cinema screened its last film.

Hafod housing submitted plans for an extracare facility on the site in January this year, although their interest in this location appears to go back a lot further.

Those who have viewed the proposed plans will have seen that any recognition reflecting the cinema's 100-year standing has been cast aside in preference of demolition and redevelopment.

To add insult to injury, the facade of the new facility shown within the plans attempts to settle for a design resembling an old art deco theatre with a central tin-can like appearance, rather than using the existing facade together with the wonderful front entrance floor mosaics.

The Theatre Royal, perhaps the most imposing name of all the cine-

mas Barry once had, even disappears in favour of a Woody Allen-esque satirical film title, Gollau Caredig (A Kind Light), perhaps emitting towards the conveniently-located funeral home opposite.

Comments from Mr Robert Wathen, Hafod's managing director, some months ago, such as "We welcome the opportunity to breathe new life into such a historical building and are keen to retain as much of its heritage as possible" and "We are not taking anything away", seem to be fantasy, akin to some of the Hollywood blockbuster story lines that once filled the Theatre Royal screens and entertained the town's community.

Suffice to say, you ARE taking something away from Barry. Lost forever will be a landmark building and everything it stood for in providing an amenity for all ages.

**Paul Sutton (SOCA), Barry**

## Who sets the moral example?

**T**HE predicament of a local job seeker (GEM report recently) raises some interesting points for discussion – the education system seems to be failing many pupils who are leaving school under-qualified or, even worse, illiterate.

Recent records show that Wales is the worst offender. Even if there was full employment,

businesses would be reluctant to employ these youngsters.

It is doubtful if benefit claimants have Swiss bank accounts, so their money is soon circulated back into the economy – unlike big corporations and captains of industry who squirrel millions away into offshore tax havens.

If the question is moral responsibility, let's see an example set from the top of the heap.

**Tony Robinson, Barry.**

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK..

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## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 07)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

| DATE    | Time  | Ht  | Time  | Ht  |
|---------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
|         | AM    | M   | PM    | M   |
| 31 Thur | 05:27 | 8.5 | 18:51 | 8.7 |
| 01 Fri  | 07:08 | 8.9 | 19:23 | 9.0 |
| 02 Sat  | 07:46 | 9.2 | 20:02 | 9.2 |
| 03 Sun  | 08:14 | 9.3 | 20:33 | 9.3 |
| 04 Mon  | 08:49 | 9.6 | 21:06 | 9.4 |
| 05 Tues | 09:19 | 9.5 | 21:34 | 9.4 |
| 06 Wed  | 09:50 | 9.3 | 22:03 | 9.3 |
| 07 Thur | 10:19 | 9.3 | 22:33 | 9.1 |

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

# GAS DRILLING OBJECTIONS AT LLANDOW

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

For the majority of exploratory bore hole schemes, there is no need to seek planning permission from local authorities, but because this exploration relates to hydrocarbon materials, planning permission is required.

In recent weeks, a campaign group 'The Vale Says No' has publicised the application for permission to drill.

Louise Evans, the group founder, and owner of Llandow Caravan Park, told The GEM: "Everyone I have spoken to is categorically opposing the application and we are doing our best to raise awareness so that everyone has the chance to get their voice heard."

The residents of Llandow held an emergency meeting in the village hall on Monday, March 28 to discuss the planning application.

The Mayor of Llantwit Major, Coun Ralf Austin, said the strong turnout illustrated the fears local people had.

"There are real concerns regarding the use of chemicals in the drilling operation and worries about contamination of underground water."

Mike Gabb of the Vale Green Party said: "Around 80 concerned residents attended the meeting along with local councillors and local political parties showing their support for opposing

the plans.

"The high turnout highlighted how concerned the local community were about the effects of future fracking on business, contamination of ground water, health risks and other long term damaging consequences."

Leaflets have been distributed in the Vale encouraging people to oppose the drilling. The final day to get objections in to the Vale Council was today, Thursday, March 31.

A spokesman for Coastal Oil and Gas Limited explained: "At this stage Coastal Oil and Gas Limited is applying for planning permission at Llandow Industrial Estate to drill a cored bore hole to carry out laboratory tests on shales that may be present in that area."

"The bore hole may also contact the Devonian measures where conventional gas may be present; conventional gas requires no fracturing, it produces under natural pressure. There is no fracturing required and no interaction with ground water with the current proposal, in terms of shales this proposal is the same as any other mineral exploration hole."

The spokesman added: "Given recent international events particular consideration should be given to the security of national energy supply."

# YOUNGSTERS HOLD LOCAL 'RED NOSE' FUNDRAISER



Izzy Lynn and Saffron Williams held a fundraiser for 'Red Nose Day'. They spent the day gearing themselves up with bags of chocolates and sweets to sell to friends and neighbours in Cowbridge. They sent a special thanks to all those who were able to contribute and make their little enterprise succeed, as they managed to raise £28.80 for the appeal.

# Origins of the Red Helmet shell

NEWS FROM LLANBLETHIAN WI

OUR meeting for March began with a minute's silence in memory of Mrs Margaret Edwards, a long-time member of our institute who will be much missed.

Business was conducted after our monthly speaker had entertained us. The darts team was congratulated on its most recent tournament: no victory but a valiant effort, let down (as with many a pro) by difficulty in getting the doubles!

The WI annual general meeting is held in Liverpool this year and a member from Bont Faen WI (our WI link colleague) will attend on our behalf.

It's Llanblethian's turn to host the link meeting this year and we discussed entertainment ideas for this. There will also be a lunch arranged for members by the committee, always a popular activity!

Our speaker this month was Mrs Jan Gosney who brought in her collection of seashells and explained the origins of some beautiful and exotic crustaceans.

The Red Helmet shell

# Flower meeting

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers Club is meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday, April 6 in the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge.

Eileen Williams will give a demonstration entitled 'The Seasons - How They Change'.

Come, relax and enjoy this demonstration. A warm welcome awaits you.

is probably the most familiar of these and sold in many British seaside shops, but there were South Sea conches and Nautilus shells too, and works of art created from abalone and shell. Cameo jewellery is probably the best known of these.

The competition was won by Mrs. Margaret Harris and next month's features the letter 'O'.

Members, please remember to participate because this money really does go to a good cause - and there's a trophy to be won this year, too!

Next month we expect a very interesting talk on Clarice Cliff pottery; if you have any you could bring it along.

GLT

# COWBRIDGE WITH LLANBLETHIAN TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

# Quiet time for the police in the area

INSPECTOR Mark Taylor told councillors that February had been a very quiet month, with no assaults or burglaries.

He reported that there had been an instance of criminal damage at the town hall car park toilets, and added that police had issued a warning for cannabis possession in the Middlegate Court area.

**ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS**  
COUNCILLORS are to look at developing an official policy towards artificial flowers in the Limes Cemetery.

The issue was raised by Coun Jon Harris, the chairman of the council's finance and general purpose's committee, after he announced that burial fees would not be increased this year.

He said: "When we looked at the terms and conditions that apply to burials, it was pointed out that there is a clause banning artificial flowers."

He said that it was a sensitive issue, and perhaps the council should spend some time developing a policy that would address the problem, but avoid upsetting grieving relatives.

He said that plastic flowers look very tatty after a time, but he was also aware that some people travel some distance to a grave, and cannot change floral tributes that often.

Coun Sue Cox noted that the town clerk had been asked to find out what other councils did, and Coun Harris agreed that there was no urgent need to make a decision.

Coun Burges pointed out that the description "artificial" could be a problem, because many people were using silk flowers, which were much more suitable.

It was agreed to

investigate the matter further.

**MAYOR ELECT**  
THE meeting confirmed that the current deputy mayor, Coun Andy Banks, will be the next mayor - taking up his duties in May.

Coun Nicola Thomas was nominated as deputy mayor by Coun Banks, seconded by Coun Gwen Bay, and was elected unopposed.

**TOWN HALL STAGE**  
THE council is to spend £775.92 on sanding, sealing and restoring the stage in the town hall.

The cost will be decreased by £100, after the council received a donation from the St Quentin's Lodge of the Freemasons towards the cost.

**POPPY WEEKEND**  
THE council is organising an event for the Royal British Legion 'Great Poppy party' weekend (June 10/11).

The national celebrations will see a wide variety of events taking place, and Coun Len Taylor said that it had been decided to put on a 'table top' sale in the Lesser Hall, and combine that with a coffee morning and afternoon tea in the lounge, all on June 11.

Coun Taylor said: "I hope that local groups and organisations will come forward and get involved."

"The idea is that groups can do their own fundraising, but should donate 50 per cent to the Poppy Appeal."

"Councillors will serve and provide the refreshments, and money raised by that would also go to the appeal."

Interested groups and individuals should contact the town clerk's office on 01446 773385.

**PLANNING DECISION**  
A NUMBER of councillors spoke to voice their disappointment that a plan to build a new house at No2, The Verlands, had been passed by the Vale Council's planning committee.

Coun Sue Cox reported that a site meeting had been attended by a large number of residents, as well as members of the town council who put over their points of objection.

Coun John Wilks said that he was "very disappointed" and Coun Nicola Thomas said that she had supported the residents in their objections.

**OLD SCHOOL SITE**

THE chairman of the leisure and amenities committee, Coun Marian Arnold, reported that rubbish that had not been removed from the now vacant Lower School site was being blown around the town, particularly into Twt Park.

Coun Arnold said that the Vale Council should clear the site once and for all, and that this would stop the problem recurring.

# Harry's great charity day at Y Bont Faen



GEM readers will remember that last week we featured the charity sacrifice made by young Harry Lee, a year-6 pupil at Y Bont Faen Primary.

Harry had his hair shaved off by local barber Nick Marley, and his mother Gill told The GEM: "The amount he raised has passed £200, and people are still coming forward to sponsor him."

Harry had his headshaved during the school's own 'X-Factor' event, and lack of space last week prevented us showing a picture of the three judges (above and below).

On the left, as Louis Walsh, was teacher Jackie Jones, while deputy head Tony Lloyd (right) was in Simon Cowell mood with some forthright comments!

Finally, in the middle, as Cheryl Cole having a bad (facial) hair day, was headteacher Meic Griffiths.



# Pupils raise school funds

PUPILS from year-7-13 at Cowbridge Comprehensive entertained a packed White Lion in Ystradowen to raise funds to purchase a harp for the school's music department.

The Welsh-themed event, organised by Mrs Julie Williams, the schools' PCLO (Primary Cluster Links Orchestra) director, showed off the rich musical talent the school.

Diners enjoyed a three-course meal to soothing music supplied by harpists Ioan Wardhaugh, Melissa Hamilton and Lucy Glasson. On the piano/keyboard were Matthew Uppcott and Warren Ryland, who also accompanied his sister Cathy (in full Welsh costume) singing a traditional folksong.

The audience were later entertained to individual performances by Hanna Morgan and Richard Wilks (guitar and vocals). Well over £400 was raised, which gives organisers a flying start to the £3,000 required for the purchase.

Grateful thanks go to Tracy and Mark of the White Lion for their hospitality and support of the event, and to all those who helped make the evening a huge success, especially Aled Williams (guitar teacher and Lee for their services).

For further details of membership and rehearsal times of PCLO and any extra donations, contact Mrs Julie Williams via the school office on 01446 772311.

PCLO is pleased to announce that they will be supporting 'HWB' (a new charity for music and musicians) in their planned fundraising bike ride from London to Paris in July.

LG

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# Head-on collision after man drove car while 'unfit through drugs'

A MOTORIST had to be cut from his car after a driver under the influence of drugs had been involved in a head-on collision Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Charles Gaughan (20), a bakery worker from Barry, was sentenced to 40 weeks' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, ordered to carry out 240 hours unpaid work for the community, and was disqualified for two years.

He had pleaded guilty before Vale Magistrates to driving while unfit through drugs, possessing drugs with intent to supply, and aggravated vehicle taking and had been committed to the Crown Court for sen-

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

tence. Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that on November 20, Gaughan took his sister's Renault Clio car without her consent. As he drove through Barry, he attracted the attention of a police officer. He stopped at Barry Railway station, but as the officer approached, he drove off at high speed.

Mr Andrew Riseborough was driving a Ford Focus. He saw the Renault hit a kerb, and then collided with him.

"Mr Riseborough was trapped and had to be cut out of the vehicle by the Fire Service. He suffered back and knee injuries and bit through his tongue and lip. His

car was a write-off." Gaughan was found to be in possession of skunk cannabis worth £1,130 on the street.

He admitted he didn't have a licence and said he was delivering the drugs on behalf of a friend.

He said he had been selling small amounts to friends and text messages on his mobile phone confirmed this.

Mr Trigg described him as a "small-time dealer".

He admitted to the police that earlier in the day he had been smoking cannabis which had "compromised his ability to drive."

Keiran Molloy, defending, said: "He didn't prevaricate about the incident, and he was

remorseful at the roadside. He said, 'Oh, what have I done, I've ruined my life'.

"Obviously, it has caused great upset in the family who have made him see the error of his ways. He acted rashly without any thought for the ramifications.

"He has not passed his test, and should not have taken that car. His grandfather is so ashamed of him, he won't speak to him."

Recorder Christopher Clee said: "It was a miracle the other driver didn't suffer more serious injuries. He had come within a whisper of going to prison."

Gaughan was also ordered to take an extended driving test.

## WHO WERE THE BIG KIDS AT LLANFAIR ON RED NOSE DAY?

Llanfair Primary pupils celebrate Red Nose Day



ON Red Nose Day, the children of Llanfair Primary School raised in excess of £224 for the cause – with the help of some 'big kids'.

"The school council decided they would have a non-uniform day, with the option to wear clothes back to front, and there were some very funny sights... All the staff dressed as schoolchildren for the day!" a spokesperson reported.

## After the nursery flood... SUN SHINES AGAIN!

THERE are sunny times once again for the children who attend Cylch Meithrin y Bontfaen, the Welsh-medium nursery in Cowbridge.

They are back learning and playing in their bright, newly-refurbished building, next to the leisure centre, but it's been a tough time.

During the freezing temperatures over Christmas, the water pipes burst, flooding the nursery and the children's toys, art materials, and books, were all ruined. Flooring was damaged and walls were wrecked.

Then committee and staff swung into action, children's classes moved temporarily to the rugby club, and the race was on to get the repairs finished as quickly as possible.

Cylch Meithrin Y Bontfaen is a registered charity. While the insurance covered most of the



work, a mammoth fundraising campaign was launched to help kit out the Cylch.

A cookery demonstration evening, teaching elegant, easy entertaining, was held at UWIC, with top London chef Claudine Boulstridge. Wonderful raffle prizes were generously donated by many of the shops on Cowbridge High Street. More than £1,800 was raised. The children say a big thank you to everyone who helped!

Everyone involved in

this nursery – from the qualified, caring staff and parents, to the children who love it there – all agree that it's a very special place, full of fun and laughter while the kids learn through play.

Children from the age of two and a half are welcome for morning sessions; from the age of three in the afternoon. For an information pack, call the nursery on 01446 776250 or email cymhymithrin@btconnect.com.

A big thank you also

goes to Cowbridge Rugby Club and to Mr Evans at Ysgol Lolol Ddiolch yn fawr!

RHIAN THOMAS

## Coffee with the Mayor

THE Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Len Taylor, and Mrs Claire Davies, the daughter of the late Mayoress, are inviting readers to join them for coffee/tea and home-made cakes in the Mayor's Parlour from 10.30am to 12.30pm this coming Saturday (April 2).

All proceeds will go to the Mayor's charity, Cowbridge Comprehensive 2010, and will be used for the purchase of specialist books for the school library.



ABOVE: The choir do some last-minute revision before taking to the stage at the Porthcawl Pavilion!

## Ystradowen choir in festival at Porthcawl

COR Meibion Y Machlud of Ystradowen made a guest appearance at Porthcawl Pavilion's recent Cwlm Celtaidd festival of folk dancing and music.

This was followed by a lively evening in the 'Eisteddfod Mochyn Du held in Cardiff, when the choir sang traditional Welsh folk songs (Ar Hyd Y Nos, Oes Gafur Eio, Mollianwn) together with some well loved Welsh hymns (Deus Salutus and Gwahoddiaid) to an appreciative Sunday afternoon audience in Porthcawl.

A more competitive atmosphere, however, existed in Cardiff where the choir was competing against former National Eisteddfod winners Cordydd and Cor Mochyn Du, the last

named, playing at home, won the night's first prize awarded by the eminent adjudicator and conductor Abwyn Humphries, in a contest between six choirs.

While disappointed not to have won more than a small consolation prize, Cor Meibion Y Machlud's musical director, Eifion Davies, felt that the choir's visit to Sophia Gardens had not been wasted.

"We need to compete more often at this level to continue with our preparations for this year's Eisteddfod in Aberteifi (and indeed the National) if we are to enter when it comes to the Vale next year," he said.

RICHARD KENNARD

## Rotarians' cheque for Nepal fund



DAVID ALLEN, of the Aid for Nepali Children Charity, recently gave Cowbridge Rotary Club an illustrated talk on the involvement and activities of his charity in Nepal.

Since his first visit to that country in 2004, he has been instrumental in raising well over £20,000 for the re-building of three schools in the North-East area of Nepal.

Furthermore, yearly salaries for five teachers are being paid.

President Pierce handed a cheque to Mr Allen during the evening. NB

# Woman's 'immense pain' after her partner bites off a third of her ear

**A young mother had a third of her ear bitten off when her partner attacked her.**

Cardiff Crown Court heard that Samantha Thomas had 40 stitches put in the ear, and could suffer permanent disfigurement.

Justin Lloyd (37) unemployed, of Penarth, was jailed for three years four months after pleading guilty to causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

Recorder Richard Twomlow said: "Miss Thomas is very conscious of the disfigurement. She is very nervous and has had to have counselling.

"This was a serious offence for which there must be a substantial sentence. You inflicted

## Court report by AJ SICLUNA

permanent disfigurement in a terrifying attack."

Prosecutor Gareth James said the two had been involved in a relationship for four years.

He said that Lloyd's personality could change when in drink.

On Saturday, November 13, he and friends watched a rugby match at his home and all drank.

Later he and Ms Thomas went to bed and everything appeared to be fine.

"In the early hours of the morning, he went into the spare room, and she could hear him shouting threats and punching the wall."

"He was shouting: 'I'm going to kill you,

I'm going to destroy you."

The situation, said Mr James, spiralled out of control.

Lloyd grabbed her by the arms, took her to the spare room, pushed her onto the bed, pinned her down, spat at her and suddenly bit her left ear.

"She suffered immense pain, and there was a lot of blood. He also bit her face," said Mr James.

The woman's mother arrived at the house and found the defendant crying hysterically. She found a piece of the ear on the floor.

Ms Thomas was taken to the University Hospital of Wales where a third of the ear was found to be missing and

she was also treated for a bite mark on the cheek.

"Reconstructive surgery is being discussed, but there could be permanent disfigurement," said Mr James.

Lloyd's counsel, Jeremy Jenkins, said he admitted this was a very serious offence.

"The circumstances were bizarre. There was no build-up to the incident, and he is profoundly ashamed.

"To all intents and purposes, they were a happy couple. He once suffered a head injury which caused depression."

He said that he was not a misogynist in any way, and the incident was inexplicable.

"Sadly, he has lost what was most close to him," he said.

# 'We are on top of the Llantwit Major regeneration project' SAYS LOCAL COUNCILLOR

**A LLANTWIT MAJOR councillor has urged people not to pre-judge work on the Boverton regeneration project – and emphasised there would be a full inspection when it is completed.**

Last week in The GEM, a correspondent claimed slabs needed to be levelled and "presents a significant trip hazard".

Coun Gwyn John appealed to people not to be too hasty.

He explained: "I am delighted that residents living at Llantwit Major and the surrounding area are showing a keen interest in the Boverton Road Regeneration project.

"The GEM's correspondent Mr Snowdon last week commented on the uneven paving slabs being laid and expressed his deep concern.

"I can assure Mr Snowdon we are on top of the job and the work is being supervised by experienced consultants

## REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

working on behalf of Llantwit Major Town Council.

"As chairman of the town council sub-committee responsible for seeing the project through, I would respond by asking all the residents to understand that the work is not yet completed and will not be finished until mid-April.

"The contractor still has much work to do on site which includes the levelling of all the paving slabs, which, incidentally, started last Friday afternoon March 25.

"In keeping access to all the businesses on the Precinct area of the Boverton Road, the paving slabs were laid with a view to getting them down and then to level them.

"The alternative was to close the shops, which was totally unacceptable."

## INSPECTION

Coun John said the project was being fully supervised by the town council.

and everything must be in order before we sign off the project as completed. I would add that we then have a retention period of 12 months cover on the project."

Coun John added: "Over the next few weeks, the public will see street furniture in place, with the finishing touches being added to the frontage.

"I am sure everyone will be pleased with the finished product which will conclude with the official opening in May."

## Latest Vale bridge results

**THE latest local bridge results were:**

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club, March 21 club championship round 2: 1st, Bill Turner and Steve Burgoyne 64.58 per cent; 2nd, Ray Smith and Gwynne Maddox 59.92; 4th, Marian East and Pauline McAllen 56.75; 5th, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey 53.97; 6th, Pam Higgs and Joyce Birmingham 51.98.

Please note that the spring party is on April 19. Drinks and prizes provided but bring your own food!

BS

## Protecting wild life in the Vale

### NEWS FROM ST HILARY WI

**THE March meeting began unusually as our speaker, PC Mark Goulding, arrived before the members.**

As he had been on duty since 7am, it was decided he should give his talk before the usual business meeting. As one member put it, it was a little like having pudding before dinner!

PC Goulding's talk was most interesting on the law on wild life. As a wildlife crime prevention officer covering a large area in south Wales, he saw many shocking acts carried out by unscrupulous individuals.

He told stories of pigeon fanciers deliberately poisoning peregrine falcons, bird collectors still raiding nests for birds' eggs, and swans being shot. He also showed horrific photographs of badgers that had been baited by dogs.

His primary goal was crime prevention, however, and he saw education as an important fac-

tor in this. A happier story was of the rescue of a bat colony from a tree which had to be felled, and members were reassured that there was very little wild life crime in the Vale.

During the business meeting, arrangements were firmed up for the 79th birthday dinner, and the president reminded members that they needed to start thinking of ways to celebrate the 80th birthday next year.

Two members eagerly accepted the challenge of playing in the croquet tournament at Insole Court, and two members signed up for 'Fun With a Map'.

Eirwen Thomas and Margot Bradshaw provided a splendid St Hilary supper, and Olive Lewis won the competition for an object beginning with T.

The next meeting is to be a games night and new members are welcome.

JH

## Two new bridle routes in Vale



**ABOVE:** Sandra Thomas, public rights of way assistant, joins cabinet member for leisure and tourism, Coun Anthony Ernest, at Ystradowen where two new bridle routes have been created by the Vale Council.

**HORSE riders now have an easy way to explore beautiful parts of the rural Vale thanks to the installation of two new bridle routes by the Vale Council.**

Two circular routes have been made available by the Vale Council's public rights of way section, allowing riders to explore the countryside between Ystradowen and Craig Penllyn using a mixture of country lanes and public rights of way.

Work to the route included drainage, clearance of vegetation, additional way marking and the installation of new, easy-access bridle gates.

Coun Anthony Ernest, cabinet Member for leisure and tourism, said: "These are the first bridle routes promoted by the Vale Council and the input received from local riders and the British Horse Society, along with support from landowners and the local community, has been invaluable in the completion of the pro-

gramme."

Two guides have been produced with details of the bridle routes – route one, Ystradowen to Llansannor through Ton Breigam; and route two, Craig Penllyn to Llansannor – which are available on request from the Council's public rights of way team, by calling 01446 700111.

## Society lecture

**COWBRIDGE and District Local History Society's final lecture of the season will take place tomorrow (Friday, April 1) at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.**

The lecture is 'The Destruction of the Cardiff Friars' by Richard Watson. It will be followed by cheese and wine. All welcome!

## 'ENTERPRISE ZONE WOULD BE A BOOST'

**BARRY could become one of the entrepreneurial growth centres of Wales if it gains 'enterprise zone' status, according to a local campaigner.**

Paul Haley, the chairman of Pride in Barry, gave his support to a bid, arguing that the town had missed out on European funding because it was in "the apparent affluent Vale area".

He pointed out: "If Barry was a valleys town, it would have had several tens of millions of pounds of regeneration monies.

"Instead, Barry has generated more money for the Assembly than it has received through its successful land sales. "In my view, Barry with its proximity and links to Cardiff, and with its available brownfield regeneration sites at the Waterfront, offers an opportunity for economic growth and return on investment if included within a new enterprise zone."

Twenty-one enterprise zones were announced by the Chancellor last week – with more to come.

The Conservative Assembly candidate for the Vale, Angela Jones-Evans, said an enterprise

zone would see lower taxes and discounted business rates to stimulate growth across the town.

She said she hoped to see a bidding process go ahead after the Welsh Assembly elections.

"The creation of a new enterprise zone for the whole of Barry would stimulate investment in the town and bring much needed jobs to the local community.

"The opportunity to successfully bid to become an enterprise zone is exactly what is needed to stimulate growth which would benefit both the town and surrounding areas of the Vale."

Local businesswoman Kath Bevan, the director of Barry-based driver training company, Professional Driver Services said she supported the enterprise initiative.

"If we are to keep the local economy thriving and employment opportunities high in Barry then business schemes like the enterprise zone will be essential.

"It would encourage business start-ups to take advantage of lower taxes and discounted business rates which in turn would help them continue to grow."

(SEE PAGE 8)

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Mrs Sheila Westoll.

## Family's tribute to widow (83) after collision

AN 83-year-old Barry woman has died following a collision on Broad St, Barry, shortly after 6.20pm on Saturday, March 12.

Pedestrian Mrs Sheila Westoll sustained serious injuries after she came into contact with a grey coloured

Volkswagen Passat driven by a 53-year-old man, travelling from the direction of Park Street.

Police are re-appealing for witnesses and are keen to speak to anyone who saw the collision, saw Mrs Westoll, or saw the vehicle being driven prior to the collision.

Mrs Westoll, who was a widow, mother of two, grandmother of five and a great-grandmother, died on March 25, and her family are being supported by a police family liaison officer.

They paid her the following tribute:

"We as a family have been devastated by this tragic incident. Sheila was a much loved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and

we will all miss her terribly. She was still an active character, and loved to walk around Cardiff and Barry almost daily.

"We would like to thank everyone for the kind support they have shown us at this difficult time, and would especially like to thank the staff at the Critical Care Unit at the University Hospital of Wales for their care and dedication in the days before our mother passed away."

• Anyone with information is asked to contact the roads policing unit on 01656 869332, 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

### MP's surgeries

VALE MP Alun Cairns will be holding surgeries for advice and assistance on Friday, April 1, at the following locations:

1.30pm - 3pm at the County Library, King Square, Barry.

4pm - 5.30pm at Rhose Community Centre, Stewart Road, Rhose.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but surgeries are very busy, and it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

## SCHOOL'S DESIGN SUCCESS



STUDENTS from St Cyres School were presented with their certificates by Olympic Gold medal winning rower Rowley Douglas (far right) and triathlete and 2012 hopeful Lucy Chittenden (inside left), after being announced as runners-up in the Welsh regional final of GE's Design My Break competition. Also in the photo, above, are Daniel MacDonald, GE aviation apprentice, and Geraint Evans, GE compliance and business relations leader.

## Their new uniforms bring nurses out in an itchy rash

NEW uniforms for nurses throughout Wales have caused some of them to come out in itchy rashes.

The new scrubs-type uniforms were launched within the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Trust on St David's Day, but staff at the Princess of Wales Hospital have contacted The GEM to say that many of them have come out in a rash.

Staff have been told to wash the uniforms three times at 60 degrees before wearing them, and if there's a problem to wash them again three times. If they still get a reaction, new uniforms will have to be ordered in a different material.

The new all-Wales uniform was introduced to end the confusion between hospitals having different types of uniforms. All staff of each grade in Wales will now wear the same uniform so that patients can immediately know who are staff nurses, sisters and other grades.

Although representatives of the Royal

College of Nurses were involved in the design of the uniform, some staff have complained that there is no front fastening, which means that soiled uniforms have to be taken off over the head instead of being unbuttoned or unzipped.

A spokesman for ABM Board said that they were aware that there had been some problems, but 'occupa-

tional health' has given clear instructions to nurses about how to deal with the reactions and the situation is being monitored.

A spokesman for the Welsh Government said that the roll out of new uniforms across Wales has been completed.

He went on: "The number of staff who have experienced a reaction to the new uniforms was

very small in comparison to the number of uniforms issued.

"However, more testing was undertaken on the uniforms to resolve the problems. Staff have been provided with clear guidance when they received their uniforms which include washing instructions to reduce the risk of a reaction."

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## Putting baby in the swim

WITH 12 years' experience in teaching children to swim, qualified parent and baby instructors, Natalie O'Shea and Sarah Moignard recently launched parent and baby swimming lessons in the Vale.

Baby Splash has been running classes in Barry and Penarth since September 2010, but due to demand, these are extended to Rhose. Paediatric physiotherapist Natalie O'Shea of Baby Splash, said: "Our classes are energetic, fun and a good form of social interaction for both parent and child."

For more information, or to book a space on a course near you, contact Sarah on 07890 909498, or Natalie on 07921 122742, or email baby-splash@hotmail.co.uk

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# ARMY VETERAN CARRIED OUT A £7,700 FRAUD

**AN ARMY veteran who served in Iraq and Bosnia defrauded the service of more than £7,700, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.**

Lewis McGhan (24) who had been in the Welsh Guards, had put through fictitious claims for travelling expenses to receive medical treatment.

McGhan admitted six charges of fraud. He was jailed for 36 weeks, suspended for 18 months, and made subject to a supervision order for a year.

Recorder Christopher Clee said: "You in effect stole £7,000 from the army."

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said the case was originally heard before

Aldershot magistrates and committed to Cardiff for sentence.

McGhan, he said, had been a serving Welsh Guard from 2004-2009, and was discharged with mental health problems.

The offences came to light as a result of his travelling expenses being queried.

He claimed he had travelled to the Coity Clinic, Bridgend. This was found to be incorrect.

An audit was carried out and it was discovered he had made false claims of travelling to London, Bristol, Yorkshire, and a hospital in Scotland.

"He simply made up the journeys."

McGhan, of Barry, later said he owed debts to cocaine dealers and

he wanted to keep them at bay.

He was said to have convictions for making off without paying at petrol stations and restaurants.

His counsel, Sarah Waters, said: "Effectively, this was a breach of trust. He has a background of mental health difficulties involving delusional thoughts."

When in the army, he had been regarded as a good soldier, but "things went horribly wrong".

She said the catalogue of offences had been caused by cocaine. He had the offer of a job in internet technology.

**Report by  
AJ SICLUNA**

## Llantwit Major's Sarah teaches basic First Aid on St John Zambia trip

**SARAH EVERALL (20), from Llantwit Major St John Ambulance Division, was one of 12 youth members from Wales, aged 16-25, who recently took part in a week-long trip to Zambia's capital city, Lusaka.**

The group trained 3,544 school children and members of the public in basic first aid - teaching how to treat cuts and burn, broken bones, resuscitation (CPR) and recovery position techniques.

Sarah reported that during the week they participated in a youth day parade, where they marched side by side with their fellow St John members past the president of Zambia.

The group was also featured on the Zambian local news to encourage



**ABOVE:**  
During the trip more than 3,500 people learned first aid techniques.

local people and schools to participate in their work.

"Another feature of the week was Zambian and Welsh cultural evenings where the Welsh showed off the National Anthem and Welsh folk dancing, and got to experience Zambian traditional dancing and delicacies,

such as maize and fried caterpillars. There was also the opportunity to experience the local area and market," she said.

The group have been raising money to fund medical supplies and equipment for St John Ambulance Zambia.

Sarah has, to date, raised £240 and would like to say a "big thank you" to everyone who donated money and is continuing to do so.

Llantwit Major St John Division trains in the Llantwit Major Ambulance station on a Friday nights, 6pm-7pm for cadet training age 12-17; 7pm-8pm for adult training aged 18+. New members always welcome.



## Expert Oli visits school trade fair

**ENTREPRENEUR Oli Barrett (who created the original 'Make your mark with a Tenner' campaign, the precursor to Tenner Tycoon) visited Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari to encourage pupils' Tenner Tycoon enterprises.**

He sampled the student trade fair from 12.30pm-1.20pm and talked to the budding entrepreneurs about their products and Ogmores MP Huw Irranca-Davies also attended.

### Guides coffee

**LLANTWIT Major Trefoil Guild will hold a coffee morning at West Farm, West Street, Llantwit Major on April 9 at 10.30am.**

Admission £2, including coffee - Guides, Brownies and Rainbows in uniform, free.

Proceeds will go towards refurbishing the Guide hut.

Tenner Tycoon, the nationwide enterprise competition backed by Dragons' Den entrepreneur Peter Jones, offered 40,000 schoolchildren a £10 note each to turn their entrepreneurial ideas into reality during March.

Oli, along with Clare Young (finalist in the TV show The Apprentice), are on a UK-wide tour of schools. They are both ambassadors for Tenner Tycoon.

## Fairtrade eye-opener at Colwinston

**THE Fairtrade committee at St David's Primary School was busy recently organising a fun-filled afternoon to raise money for Fairtrade.**

Headed by teacher, Mrs Angela Jones, the Friends Association and children raised more than £250 by selling homemade cakes and biscuits, second hand books, plants, crafts, Fairtrade snacks along with Fairtrade teas and coffees.

Earlier on in the day, the pupils enjoyed an amusing, yet thought-provoking workshop. After the entertaining drama-based act of worship, led by the Fairtrade committee,

the acting headteacher, Mrs Karen Anthony, said: "Well, if any of us were in any doubt before why we should shop Fairtrade, we're left in no doubt now that it's the only possible path to follow. The children really got the message across in a fun, stimulating way."

Fairtrade co-ordinator Mrs Jones said: "The whole event was a great success.

The money raised will be put to very good use.

"Of course, none of this would have been possible were it not for the hard work of the Fairtrade committee, including our dedicated parents who manned stalls and made scrumptious cakes.

"Thanks also to the children who came and bought."

## CURRY AND QUIZ

**CURRY and quiz night at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, 7.30pm Friday April 1. Tickets £10 a head, available from school reception, Jon Ian or Xantippe, and also at the Living Cafe.**

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# Dyffryn House will open to public again – when the £600,000 facelift is complete!

A TOTAL of £600,000 of Lottery cash will restore the interior of Dyffryn House – and reopen the building to the public for the first time in 15 years.

The money awarded to the Vale Council will fund the restoration of the main rooms of the Grade II listed house designed in the late-Victorian period in French Renaissance and English Baroque styles.

The cash has been made available through a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant.

The work will return the interiors to their former glory and open them up for visitors to enjoy for the first time since the house closed to the public in 1996.

The grant will also be used to fund the employment of an interpretation and learning officer and provide a programme of training opportunities for local volunteers.

The aim is to make the three-storey mansion, built by coal tycoon John Cory in 1893 and considered to be one of the most important houses of its period, a focal point within the gardens once again and create a major tourism and community attraction.

The chair of HLF in Wales, Dan Clayton Jones, said: "Heritage-based tourism has never been so important to Wales' economy and as such, we've made this award as part of our continued investment in its development for the benefit of the people in Wales.

"This award is the final piece in the jigsaw of the restoration project at Dyffryn.

"The house is one of the most important to have survived from the period and reflects the enormous wealth amassed by John Cory, more than 100 years ago.

"We are delighted that the HLF grant will reopen the house and



ABOVE: One of the rooms in Dyffryn House that will be restored for public viewing.

reunite it once more with the gardens, as it was originally designed, creating one fantastic space for visitors to enjoy.

"What's more, this project is creating opportunities for local people to get involved in heritage, learn new skills and play their part in taking history into the future."

In 1997 and 2005, HLF awarded the 55-acre Dyffryn Gardens a total of more than £6.15m to restore the gardens' features and landscapes.

The gardens currently attract 52,000 visitors a year and are regularly used for events. The council hopes the reopening of the house will double visitor numbers within 10 years.

The Minister for Heritage, Alun Ffred Jones, said: "I'm delighted that my officials in Cadw were able to offer a grant in 2009 towards the restoration of the principal rooms, and I am glad that they and the HLF are able to work together in this way."

There is currently a regular 25-strong group

researchers, period flower arrangers and tour guides in full Edwardian costume, to really bring the history of the house to life.

The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012 and a series of events, activities, exhibitions and school visits are planned to take place.

Coun Rhodri Traherne, cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, said:

"Bringing the house back into use as part of the visitor experience at Dyffryn will be a significant development in making this an important heritage destination, benefiting not only Dyffryn, but the region as a whole."

Geraldine Donovan, the site curator, added: "Throughout the restoration, there will be opportunities for the community to become involved, either as volunteers or as observers of the project."

"Our first volunteer open day is May 5 and, from the interest expressed so far by both friends and the community, we are confident that we will attract the new house volunteers which are essential to the project's success."

## Post Office seeks a new postmaster for Wick

THE Vale MP has expressed disappointment that the Wick Village Shop will be closed from the end of this month and that the Post Office is searching for an alternative site for the Post Office facility in the village.

Mr Alun Cairns said that unfortunately, the proprietors of Wick Post Office have chosen not to continue providing the service.

The current sub-postmaster has resigned from post and is selling the village shop premises, as a result of which the

Post Office must close temporarily from March 30.

Post Office Ltd has re-assured Mr Cairns that it is their intention to keep a Post Office service in Wick.

The Vale MP said: "I was sorry to hear that the village shop will be closing at the end of this month, particularly after we'd worked hard last year in securing a reduction in business rates for the rural premises."

"I contacted the Post Office and will work with them to find a new sub-postmaster," he promised.

## THE VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

# 'Let Barry be Wales' first enterprise zone'

IN last week's budget the UK government announced the creation of 21 new Enterprise Zones for England.

In Wales, we're calling on the WAG to deliver the same exciting and innovative programme here in Wales and I have asked for Barry to become the first such location.

The zones will be centres for new businesses and jobs in parts of Britain that missed out in the last ten years, where taxes will be even lower and more restrictions on economic growth removed.

They will be in places with high growth potential – but which need that extra push from government and local communities working together.

Millions of pounds have been spent in west Wales and the valleys in recent years from Objective-1 funding.

This funding has sought to promote the economy in these regions due to the decline of coal and steel production.

Barry, as a port town that used to export coal and steel, has experienced the same decline, but so far has not



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

received the same monetary support as the valleys have.

The decision to introduce enterprise zones by the government is exciting, though here in Wales the decision is not automatic and will be up to Welsh Assembly Government.

The Secretary of State for Wales, Cheryl Gillan, is working with WAG to deliver similar zones in Wales, and I'm championing the cause to ensure that Barry becomes the first enterprise zone in Wales.

The Government's range of policy tools available to the enterprise zones, include a 100 per cent business rate

discount worth up to £275,000 over five years for businesses that move into an Enterprise Zone during the course of this Parliament.

This is great news for traders to help further rejuvenate our shopping areas and for other businesses along the docks and elsewhere in the town.

In addition, support to ensure superfast broadband is rolled out across the zone will be provided. This will be achieved through guaranteeing the most supportive planning environment and, if necessary, public funding. Government and local authority help will also be developed to simplify planning approaches.

As part of the Government's plan for growth – which also includes lower business taxes; less red tape and fewer regulators; enhanced access to finance; better business support; streamlined planning rules and more support for apprenticeships – the new enterprise zone will provide a real boost to growth for jobs in Barry and the wider Vale community.

But we must first of all secure agreement from WAG to introduce such zones for Wales.

## Six ride out in Llancarfan!



SIX children from Llancarfan Primary School – Mali Ford, Alex Griffiths, Libby Williams, Evie Williams, Max Cunningham and Sam Gammon – recently took part in a sponsored

cycle for Red Nose Day to cycle 12 miles in less than three hours.

"They did it, and in a time of one hour, 55 minutes! Mums were feeding them sweets and biscuits to keep them cycling and as they pedalled through the finish

line in the village there were some very tired legs!

"They raised £343 for a great cause. Well done to everyone, we are all very proud of you and many thanks to all sponsors in the village and school!" a spokeswoman said.

## Cakes and Sumo wrestling – all in the name of charity!



Young people based at Barry Fire Station wrestling match against the staff at the managed to raise £60.30 for Comic Relief pupil referral unit. The young people had a on Friday, when they decorated cakes and fantastic day and it was all for a good held a raffle. "They then had a Sumo cause," a spokeswoman reported.

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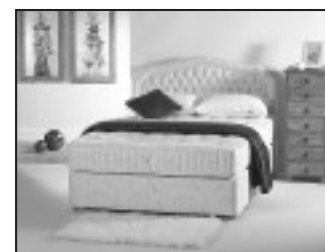
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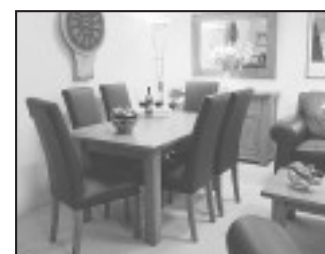
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## Ewenny/Ewenny Road/Five Bells Road/Nolton Street update profile

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# TRADERS WELCOME NEXT PHASE OF REGENERATION TO TOWN CENTRE

**P**LANS to revamp part of Bridgend town centre under the next phase of regeneration have been welcomed by traders.

by JAYNE ISAAC

Bridgend's cabinet has approved proposals to turn upper Nolton Street one way, with traffic entering the town from the Cowbridge Road traffic lights. The one-way system will extend as far as the junction with Merthyr Mawr Road.

In their report, officers stated that making the street one-way will mean that pavements can be widened and parking and unloading bays created.

At the moment, the street has double yellow lines on both sides, which prevents motorists from parking near businesses along the street.

Lorries also have to block the road when they are unloading, causing traffic hold ups.

In the report to cabinet, officers stated that it was planned to create the parking and unloading bays and bring in limited waiting for motorists to boost trade at this end of town.

It says: "Not only should this help prevent the sort of obstructive loading and unloading which currently occurs along this road but it should provide the ability to introduce on-street limited waiting which should give a significant boost to trade in this area encouraging new and existing businesses to develop and attract new investment."



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## APPROACHING BRIDGEND...

Ewenny/Ewenny Road/Five Bells Road/ Noltton Street update profile

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## WHAT THE TRADERS SAY...

Felicity Ladbrooke, who owns the Felicity's shoe, bag and jewellery shop at the junction of Brackla Street and Noltton Street, welcomed the news.

"It's great that something is being done to make it easier for people to get to our shops. Having limited waiting means that people will be able to park and just pop to the one shop they want to visit," she said.

"We need to work to make Bridgend a shopper-friendly environment and also make it easy for people to get into town in their cars."

Ms Ladbrooke said that she had been in busi-

ness at that site for 30 years and had full confidence in Bridgend.

"We recently invested a lot of money in upgrading the shop," she said. "Bridgend has a lot to offer. We have some fantastic shops but there is still potential for improvement and we would welcome any new businesses that open."

"People need plenty of choice in any town and the more shops we can offer, the better for all of us. This scheme should help to transform the upper end of Noltton Street and breathe new life into it."

Vicky Perks, who runs the Seren health shop in Noltton Street, is a former president of the chamber of trade and is now with the Bridgend Business Forum which has been consulted about the proposals.

"These changes will improve the flow of traffic into town and make access easier," she said. "Anything which makes it easier for people to get in here and then park is good for trade."

She said that traders had campaigned for the £1 parking fee on Wednesdays which was now up and running and they were hoping that this could be extended.

"A lot of what's happening now is what we have been fighting for over many years and it's good that the council have listened and taken on board some of our views."

"We have some cracking shops in town and promoting the upper end of Noltton Street will only add to the mix for shoppers."

Asda, which is located behind upper Noltton Street, has already brought people into that end of Bridgend especially as they can use the car park free for up to three hours.

Traders say that many people shopping at the store also take the chance to come into town and having a supermarket in the town centre rather than on an out of town site like most of the others has produced valuable spin-off for them.

Upper Noltton Street has a mix of businesses at the moment including an art gallery which sells works by local artists and an antique shop. There are also a number of shops providing services like hairdressing and fast food.

But in the past, the street had a number of prestigious businesses including the Roses gown shop which drew people from a wide area.

Traders hope that these proposals will help recreate that shopping environment and attract new businesses to that part of town.

The revamp, which is part of a £9m scheme, will include new pavements and street furniture to enhance the appearance of the whole area.

Linked to this part of Bridgend is the small cluster of shops in Ewenny Road, near the Five Bells. Traders there are hoping that if more shoppers are drawn to Upper Noltton Street, they will make the short hop across Cowbridge Road to reach their premises.

Several businesses have opened up in the former Terry Refell plumbing showroom and other businesses in that part of town include double glazing, an interior design shop and a jewellery business, again with potential for other businesses to open up.

It would be true to say that until now, the regeneration has been concentrated in the core part of Bridgend town centre but this additional money means that the peripheral areas around that core can also benefit and prosper.

The nearest village to that part of Bridgend – travelling south along Ewenny Road – is Ewenny itself, which has its own businesses including two potteries, a pine furniture shop, a nursery and a dress shop and hair salon, which draws its customers from a wide area.



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# Johnson's Faster takes you on a slow road to mediocrity!

**S**INCE swapping the span-dex for the big screen, Dwayne Johnson has made a decent fist of being a movie star.

Having taken his wrestling persona into the world of action with the likes of *Welcome To The Jungle* and *Walking Tall* (an underrated movie), Johnson then tried his luck, with varying success, in the cut throat world of the family film.

Now, having exhausted that world, Johnson returns to action with the fifth instalment of the *Fast and Furious* franchise next month, and this week in (no relation) *Faster*.

Johnson plays Driver, a recently-released felon out to avenge his brother's death after they were double crossed during a heist; however, Driver is being chased by a veteran cop (Billy Bob Thornton) and an eccentric hitman (Oliver Jackson-Cohen) who both want to get hold of him before he can unleash hell...

A pared-down narrative, simplistic characters with names like

Driver, Cop and Killer, and an over-reaching sense of familiarity that has much to do with those trashy B-movies from the 1970s, it's very clear to see what *Faster* is trying to achieve.

If handled with a degree of class and sophistication, then it can supersede its origins, to be something far more engaging and substantial; sadly, this isn't the case here.

Instead, you're left with the most pared-down of films that rarely offers you anything and as such makes for something of an inauspicious return to adult fare for Dwayne Johnson.

While he has proved since his transition from wrestling ring to film set that he has the charisma and physical presence to make for an engaging and tough actor, he gets very little opportunity to flex his acting muscles here.

This is a performance that hinges purely on Johnson fighting and killing his way through the people responsible for the death of his brother, and while it aims for a *Death Wish* vibe, Johnson is certainly no Charles Bronson.

While he handles the physical side of things with hard-hitting style, the largely dialogue-free performance is hardly

## SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

the shining turn he has previously offered up.

Old hand Billy Bob Thornton should be far too good for films of this ilk, but while he's here he doesn't slum it, instead delivering a solid turn as Cop, one that is given a degree of depth thanks to the script.

Thornton is always watchable, and his sack detective, again while hardly original or career-best, isn't a woeful performance by any means.

The most intriguing character and performance is Oliver Jackson-Cohen, as a multi-millionaire hitman doing jobs purely for the adrenaline rush. Afforded an interesting back story, and matched with a solid performance from the British actor,

Killer shines as the brightest character here.

Director George Tillman Jr certainly knows his way around a genre picture, given the stylistic ties that he offers here, the muscle cars, open roads and action sequences all holding a debt to their forbearers; but beyond that the direction is weak, lacking the pace the title suggests and feeling tired.

While his outing in the next *Fast and Furious* outing may well put Johnson back in the action saddle, *Faster* certainly won't. Johnson is better than material like this and can certainly offer more than is on show – consider this to be merely a warm-up for the big man's next assault on the action genre.

**VERDICT** – A mundane action film that demands little but gives less back, *Faster* is perfunctory brainless entertainment that has a few moments, but by and large trundles along at a mediocre pace.

Only Oliver Jackson-Cohen's quirky turn resonates and the end result is far from essential viewing. *Poor*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Death Wish*, *Shoot 'Em Up*.

*Faster* is on general release now.



## PUPILS AND STAFF SEE RED ON COMIC RELIEF DAY...

**PUPILS and staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant celebrated Comic Relief Day when they all wore red and made a donation towards the appeal.**

Pupils who attend the after-school club also prepared cakes which they sold to parents and

children. In total the school donated £230.

Local AM Jane Hutt presented certificates to the 'Pupils of the Week' during the morning assembly and was entertained by the school choir.

Bu Mrs Jane Hutt ar ymweliad ag Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant yn ddiweddar er mwyn dathlu

'Diwrnod Comic Relief'. Roedd yr ysgol gyfan wedi gwisgo mewn coch ac roedd lluo o weithgareddau diddorol yn digwydd yn ystod y dydd er mwyn codi arian. Caglywyd £230 ar gyfer yr apel.

Cyflwynodd Mrs Hutt dystys-grifau i Ddisgyblion yr Wythnos yn ystod y gwasanaeth a chafodd ei ddianu gan gor yr ysgol.



**LEFT:** Winner Charlotte Martin, with Royal Mail delivery office manager, Paul Daniels, and postman, Philip Ansell (with glasses) and Charlotte's teacher, Kim Freeman.

## Charlotte (9) puts her stamp on a first class writing prize

**LLANCARFAN schoolgirl Charlotte Martin was awarded first prize in the Welsh final of Royal Mail's Young Letter Writer Competition 2011.**

The theme for this year's competition was children's favourite books – a subject celebrated by Royal Mail through a set of stamps featuring AA Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.

Charlotte (9), from Llanccarfan Primary School, impressed the judges with her letter about Silky

the Fairy and the Land of Cupcakes.

Judge Val Boddan, Royal Mail Media Relations manager, said: "All the letters demonstrated real imagination. Charlotte's letter was particularly fun to read and she put her own stamp on the story. It was a delight to read her creativity in action."

Charlotte receives a £50 book token and a set of personalised Smilers® stamps featuring her own favourite photograph. She also receives a pack of letter writing goodies to share with her classmates.

## Walk for Life raises £1,000



**MORE than 70 local people, including the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, joined the Kidney**

**Wales Barry Walk for Life on Sunday morning, walking from Morrisons car park down Broad Street to the Knap and back, to raise over £1,000 for kidney research and patient care in Wales.**

Organised by Debbie Baker, the annual Barry Walk for Life was enjoyed by all those who joined in, with children and dogs taking part as well.

**ABOVE:** Debbie Baker and Barry Walk for Life supporters in Morrisons car park, before setting off on their walk.

The AM commented: "This is such an important annual event, with walks taking place all over Wales raising funds and awareness about the importance of improving patient care and research to eradicate kidney disease which affects so many

families – including many on the Barry Walk for Life. "We got a good response from passers-by and the sponsorship raised over £1,000, which is a great contribution to vital funds for Kidney Wales," she reported.

## Charity cheque

**ELINOR HILLMAN – support worker for Action for Children, Barry and the Vale, received a cheque for £110 raised through the Christmas tree memorial tags and memorial carol service with A G Adams & Son, Funeral Directors, Barry.**

## Foster carers praised for their dedication

**THE care and devotion given to children by Vale foster carers won warm praise recently from Vale AM Jane Hutt at a meeting held at the HUB in Barry to discuss SNAP (Special Needs Advisory Service).**

Two foster carers, Jeff and Myra Phillips, are retiring after 46 years of service so there was a particular "thank you" for all the care they have given, recognised in the honours list when the couple both received the MBE.

The AM commented: "The unstinting care and commitment given

by foster carers like Jeff and Myra Phillips who have given 46 years of dedicated service to our children and young people who need that care is remarkable.

"They have changed the life chances and opportunities of so many children and as a society we owe so much to them."

## Ty Hafan draw

**THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D623.**

● The rollover, which now stands at £2,500, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 7078069.

● £10: 568069, 222582, 178703, 123606, 618751, 244825, 947014, 236138, 254426, 653386.

725355, 882983, 134566, 357450, 743665, 884777, 530136, 182518, 528023, 572018.

● £5: 601960, 393974, 686762, 697220, 837209, 188241, 412513, 896595, 156884, 805317, 126891, 395838, 711240, 208557, 468305.

389817, 686155, 313533, 784382, 495106, 130953, 294716, 337508, 700976, 558534, 671730, 835954, 709630, 339479, 664889, 369729, 752876, 141260, 568938, 853045, 194349, 475410, 140826, 805834, 623784, 402767, 862264, 771168, 497971, 984595, 500894, 572084, 345715, 558984, 395369, 120387, 626500, 408816, 104471, 243614, 611284, 445985, 573742, 888478, 445690.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

## School council grill regional AM

**LOCAL pupils quizzed Plaid Cymru AM Chris Franks when St Andrew's Church in Wales school council during a visit to the National Assembly in Cardiff Bay.**

Mr Franks, a former governor of the Dinas Powys school, said: "As a Dinas Powys resident, it was a pleasure to meet St Andrew's school council.

"I was quizzed with some tough questions from the schoolchildren. I highlighted the difference there would be after the Welsh general

election on May 5 now laws that only apply to Wales will be made in Wales by the National Assembly.

"I hope that the pupils and teachers enjoyed their visit and will come again to see the workings of Welsh democracy in the future," he concluded.

## GROUP'S MEETING

**BARRY and the Vale Osteoporosis support group will meet in the Mary Lennox Room in Barry Hospital on Wednesday, April 6 from 2pm to 4pm.**

The speakers will be Dr Jane Turton and Sister Rosamund Broadbent from the Bone Research Unit at Llandough Hospital, Penarth.

New members or visitors would be most welcome. For enquiries, telephone 01792 881767.

# Out and About with The GEM

## Musicals stamp GEM winners

**THE winners of our recent musicals stamp competition were:**

Stephen Huxter, Barry; Jean M Chick, Penarth; E O Coles, Dinas Powys; Mrs G R Williams, Pyle; Linda J Pike, Porthcawl; Gwyneth Lewis, St Brides Major; Margaret Lamb, Cowbridge; Shan Llewellyn, Coychurch; Mrs A King, Pencoed; Mrs T Sobey, Bridgend; Mrs B Burden, Llantwit Major; Mrs M Bradshaw, Cowbridge; Mrs C Evans, Cwmbran; Mr A Grainger, Dinas Powys; W E Dunn, Sully; Mrs L Cox, Barry; Mr Chris Spear, Penarth; Mr Lyndon Thomas, Pyle; Wilma Smith, Porthcawl and P Jones, Cowbridge.

**Congratulations to you all. Watch out for more great GEM competitions!**

## OCEAN LOUNGE

**PORKKERRY**  
OPEN:  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY LUNCHTIMES  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS  
**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Saturday, 2nd April**  
**DAVE MONROE** (vocalist)  
Plus BINGO

**Saturday, 9th April**  
**BOBBY LEE RAY** (vocalist)  
Plus BINGO

**Saturday, 16th April**  
**GREG COLLINS** (vocalist)  
Plus BINGO

**SUNDAY ROAST £6.95**  
in the Ocean Lounge Bar  
Booking Advisable

**Bookings now being taken for MOTHER'S DAY**

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**3 course meal - £9.95**  
plus pianist/violin  
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EVERY SUNDAY from 2pm  
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## Eye Candy Boutique

**Celebrate their First Anniversary on Saturday 2nd April**

and would like to invite you to come and view their Spring/Summer collections.

Enjoy Complimentary drinks and 10% off all purchases.

**Stockists of:**  
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An invitation to you...

## WHAT'S ON/ IN AND AROUND YOUR AREA

### Art society exhibition

ON April 2, Porthcawl Art Society will be opening its Spring Exhibition.

Categories will be oil or acrylic, sketching or pastel. This will be in conjunction with a coffee morning (10.30am until noon).

Porthcawl Art Society will also be holding a sale of art material, new and second hand.

This will take place from April 14-16, 10.30am - 4pm. Both events are in the society's rooms, above Porthcawl Museum, John Street.

### Photo display

**BARRY at Work and Play, a pictorial exhibition by Tom Clemett, will be held from April 4 to May 8 at The Room in the Park, Victoria Park, Cadroxton, Barry (10am-4pm).**

**Admission free. Walkways**

ON Sunday, April 3 at 2.30pm 'Up the Ely Valley' starting from St Peter's Church,

Peterston-super-Ely (reference ST 08374); contact 07854 526117 (Phil).

On Thursday, April 7 at 1.30pm, Cosmeston Lakes and countryside, starting at the visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park; contact 07765 432676 (Babs).

On Sunday, April 10 at 1.45pm, New Beaupre circular, starting outside the church in St Hilary; contact 01446 749000 (Di and Lynda).

### Question time

PENDOYLAN Community Council hosts a meeting with

candidates standing for the Vale seat in the forthcoming Assembly election, in Pendoylan War Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on April 5.

Participants include: Jane Hutt - Labour; Ian Johnson - Plaid Cymru; Damien Chick - Liberal Democrat; Angela Jones-Evans - Conservative.

### Art society

ON Thursday, April 7 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes back Sue McDonagh, well-known local artist, who will be giving a demonstration using pastels.

Non members welcome.

### Hospital for animals

**THE Brooke Hospital for Animals (Vale of Glamorgan Supporters' Group) will hold a coffee morning on Wednesday, April 13 at 10.30am in Llantrithyd House, Llantrithyd, near Cowbridge.**

Entry £3, including coffee and biscuits: home produce, cake stall, raffle; by permission of Mr and Mrs Paul Dolan.

Proceeds to Brooke Hospital for Animals.

Contact Alex Rees 01446 781286 or Joy Rees 01446 781955.

### Free Welsh courses

'Ti a Fi' parent toddler groups in Bridgend are offering six-week basic

Welsh language courses for free!

The course is called Cymraeg o'r Crud (Welsh from the cradle) and is a special taster course for parents of babies 0-11 months old (but it is popular with older siblings as well!).

The course is organised by MYM in partnership with Cymraeg i Oedolion/Welsh for Adults.

Call Lou Stevens-Jones on 07966 321764 for details: the course is free; entry to the Ti a Fi groups ranges from £1 to £1.50 per family, including refreshments for all.

## Dyspraxia support

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, April 4 at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holt Road, Barry, CF63 4RU.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD and

Tourettes) and their parents and carers by providing advice and information as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, [www.vdsg.org.uk](http://www.vdsg.org.uk).

It also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

TW

## Air society's talk

WHAT causes the weather? David Ephraim will be explaining, in his talk 'Pilot's Weather' at the next meeting of Penarth Aviation Society on Friday, April 1.

Familiar as one is with terms like 'low pressure' and 'high pressure', and tapping the barometer and blaming the BBC forecasters for

getting it wrong, few of us can make much of an educated guess about what's likely to happen. As an experienced glider pilot who needs to know what weather he is flying into, David Ephraim will be passing on some useful information.

Penarth Aviation Society meets on the first Friday of every month in Penarth Conservative Club at 7.45pm for 8pm. Visitors are welcome.

## Toy fair comes to Penarth

FOLLOWING the success of the very first Cardiff show in January, the second great event (of four per year) is taking place at the same venue in Penarth on Saturday, April 2.

The toy and train sale will operate from 10.30am until 3pm and a large number of traders have already booked their tables ensuring that this is a major show and one of the largest of its type in Wales.

There is ease of access to the venue from all directions, good parking and an excellent

caterer which helps to make this a very special fair. There is the added bonus of a busy railway line virtually alongside the venue with Cogan Station a few steps from the toy fair.

There is also a local bus service, while those arriving by car can reach the venue easily from both Cardiff, and from J33 on the M4.

A wide range of traders are taking part, with many specialists in model railways, dioramas, tin toys, plus books and other associated material.

Such famous names as Hornby, Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, Tri-ang,

Britains, Wrenn, Lima, Bachmann and many more will be on sale and it should not be forgotten that the stall-holders are also very happy to buy and to exchange, as well as selling.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Our customers should raid their cup-

boards and attics and bring along any surplus items; they might have greater value than they thought."

For more information, call 01643 702757 or 07966 694579; website [www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk](http://www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk).

### GREAT NEW SHOW... CARDIFF TOY & TRAIN SALE

**SATURDAY, 2nd APRIL, 2011**  
**10.30am - 3.00pm**  
Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, Penarth, Cardiff CF64 2NS  
Travel by train - Cogan Station next to Venue!  
**BUY ★ SELL ★ EXCHANGE**  
Many top dealers in Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Lledo, Britains, Hornby Trains, Bachmann, Lima, etc. and much, much more - 80 plus tables  
**Admission £1.50 - Child/OAP £1.00**  
Enquiries: 01643 702757 or 07966 694579  
E-Mail: [dyer@minehead46.freemove.co.uk](mailto:dyer@minehead46.freemove.co.uk)  
Website: [chrisdyerfairs.co.uk](http://chrisdyerfairs.co.uk)  
Promoted by Chris Dyer, Minehead, Somerset, UK

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**★ PSYCHIC ★**  
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Top International Clairvoyants will be available for private readings all day and night  
AS SEEN ON TV

**Tuesday 5th April, 2011**  
**The Ship Hotel**  
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A day of Tarot, Psychometry, Clairvoyance, etc.  
Books • Crystals • Tarot Cards all on sale  
Doors open 1-5pm; re-open 6-10pm.  
★ Admission £2.50 ★  
★ Enquiries Tel: 0777 597 2998 ★

Local well-established organiser urgently requires  
**HOST FAMILIES FOR SHORT TERM FOREIGN STUDENTS**  
during the Spring and Summer in the Vale of Glamorgan.  
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Breaded chicken, home baked carved ham, salads, seasonal desserts and more  
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Bring the family  
Bank Holiday Easter Weekend  
**22-25 April 2011**  
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Stroller tickets £5 (under 12s FREE)  
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Tel: 01656 815995

# THE BARRY SAILOR WHO WON A RARE GALLANTRY AWARD

Local military historian and headteacher of St Cyres Comprehensive School, Dr Jonathan Hicks, tells the story of one Barry man's courage during the First World War.

**T**he recent award of an Australian Victoria Cross to an Australian soldier serving in Afghanistan prompted me to look back at my records of local men who won gallantry awards during the two world wars of the last century.

The Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (CGM) was instituted in 1855. It was made of silver with a white ribbon with dark blue edges (RN) or sky blue (RAF). The obverse was an effigy of the reigning monarch and the reverse had the words 'FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY' in three lines within a crowned laurel wreath.

Conceived as the naval counterpart to the DCM, it was instituted for award to petty officers and seamen of the Royal Navy. It ranks as one the rarest decorations – only 110 being issued during the reign of George V.

In October 1918, a large gathering of people assembled at the Theatre Royal in Barry to witness the presentation of the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal to Leading Seaman David George Rees, Royal Navy, the son of Mr and Mrs D Rees of 'Socotra', Tynewydd Road, Barry.

Colonel J A Hughes,



Leading Seaman David G Rees.

in the course of his remarks, stated that the medal had been awarded to Rees on account of his brave and gallant conduct in the recent raids on Ostend.

While acting as coxswain, Rees steered motor launch 254 alongside the *Vindictive*, which was being sunk to block the harbour, and succeeded in carrying off the crew.

He held the launch alongside in a most intrepid manner and the survivors of the *Vindictive* attributed their rescue entirely to his skill and pluck. As the small craft was being steered back amid a hail of bullets, officers and men were killed throughout.

He took a conspicuous part in both raids on Ostend and had also taken part in the previous raid at Zeebrugge.

A survivor from the *Vindictive*, when interviewed, said: "If it had not been for him, none of us would have been here. Rees, though machine-gun bullets were dropping like hailstones all around him and was badly wounded, stuck to the wheel and kept the launch alongside until he got the order to sheer off when the last man had been taken from the cruiser."

"Then he steered her out through a stream of machine-gun fire, never taking his eyes off his job or leaving his post for an instant. As he was hit in the arm and shoulder, it must have been agony for him to have held on to the wheel all this time and swung a heavy launch about, but he did it."

Colonel Hughes went on to say that before joining the Navy, Leading Seaman Rees was apprenticed as a pilot to Mr E J Ford of Barry Docks, under the Pilotage Board, and both Mr Ford and the Pilotage Board wish to make him a presentation.

HMS *Vindictive*.



Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

Mr Ford presented him with a silver cigarette case and the Pilotage Board with a framed letter of congratulation and appreciation.

Further presentations were a silver mounted walking stick on behalf of the Barry Sea Scouts, of which he was formerly a member, and a wristwatch by the staff and scholars of his former school, Gladstone Road.

Mr Lloyd-Jones, the headmaster, in making the presentation on behalf of the school, congratulated Rees on his distinction and spoke very highly of him as a boy.

He was once awarded a special prize for seven years' unbroken attendance. Rees modestly and appropriately responded and was loudly and continuously cheered.

The attack on Zeebrugge had taken place on April 23, 1918. The *Vindictive* came under heavy fire as she approached the Mole. It had been intended to stop the *Vindictive* directly in front of the German guns. Instead, she came to a halt three ships' lengths away from their targets.

It then proved to be unexpectedly difficult to get the ship close enough to the Mole to allow the troops across, and so she had to be rammed on the starboard side by the ferry-boat *Daffodil*.

When the marines and seamen did get onto the Mole, they discovered that there were German machine gun positions and barbed wire between them and the guns.

They also came under fire from a German destroyer docked on the other side of the Mole. The foretop guns were soon put out of action, and the superstructure of the *Vindictive* almost totally destroyed.

The landing parties suffered very heavy casualties. However, they did succeed in dis-

tracting the Germans at a crucial moment, and two of the three blockships were able to reach their target.

They were sunk in the entrance to the inner harbour, but didn't block it. The Germans were able to dredge a new channel around the blockships, and the port was very quickly back in use.

The attack on Ostend, unfortunately, failed to achieve the same level of success. It was then decided to launch a second attack, this time using the badly damaged *Vindictive* as one of two blockships.

The attack was made on May 10. Once again the *Vindictive* came under heavy fire. On the way in, her captain, Commander Godsall, and her navigator were both killed.

She then ran aground at the channel entrance, and could not be moved. She was sunk in place, blocking one third of the channel.

Once again, the mission failed to prevent German submarines from using the harbour, but the two attacks did raise morale in Britain at a crucial moment in the war.

Jonathan Hicks's new crime novel 'The Dead of Mametz' is to be published by the Welsh Books Council in May. Copies can be ordered now through booksellers or Amazon.

## Girls' reunion is a great success at local venue

**THE Mount Sorrel Hotel was the venue for the fourth reunion for girls of Barry County Grammar School who attended between the years 1959-1966.**

There were 70 ladies who came to lunch and several more came for tea and to meet the guest of honour Miss Mary Young Smith, who formerly taught chemistry at the school.

Miss Young Smith, now 90 years old, was the only teacher who was able and/or courageous enough to come to the reunion, as it must have been daunting to meet so many old pupils.

However, she was a fantastic sport and thoroughly enjoyed herself. Monika Jones (Lloyd) gave a short speech of welcome, along with a roll of those who are no longer with us, and then

went on to introduce Miss Young Smith who, on being presented with a bouquet of flowers, stood to give a short speech of thanks, which was very well received.

Then Denise Pickett (Prater) the former head girl, gave a vote of thanks and presented, on behalf of everyone present, a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Monika as a thank you for organising the reunion.

Janet Whitehead (Neale) got everyone to stand for a spirited rendition of the school song and it was surprising how well everyone remembered the words once the singing began. Sue Gregory (Garwood) even brought her own school song book with the words she had originally copied out so we knew what we were singing. Mount Sorrel had provided a wonderful meal and lunching together gave everyone time to



MISS YOUNG SMITH.

have long chats with erstwhile friends before the mingling took place. Ladies had come from the four corners of Britain (and Spain) as well as Barry and Cardiff, and many friends had not seen one another for many years. The feedback, via email, phone and post, has been tremendous and extremely positive and everyone has expressed their enjoyment of the event and interest in the next reunion.

September 2013 marks the centenary of the opening of the girls' school and it has been decided to hold a reunion for any former pupil who attended the school between its inauguration and its close in 1974. To register interest, email [centenaryreunion13@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:centenaryreunion13@hotmail.co.uk) as the event will be a ticketed affair to cover hiring costs of the hall. Information will be sent out nearer the event.

MJ

## NEWS FROM YSGOL GYMRAEG SANT CURIG



Watch out there are newshounds about!

## Re-discovering local rural riding routes

**THREE RIDE OUT TO RIDE THE TRAIL...**



**PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY resident Paige Sherreard (15) and her friends Izzie Morgan (11) and Eva Wilcox (11) were riding their ponies so much on busy roads that Paige decided to find out if there were any local bridleways.**

She contacted the Vale Council to find out whether there were any nearby and Susan Thomas from the council was very helpful.

She made enquiries and discovered a few bridlepaths close to where the girls keep their ponies. The three girls were keen to explore them and discovered, that although

overgrown, the bridleways were rideable.

Paige contacted Mrs Thomas to see if any help could be made available to clear the routes and was delighted to hear that the bridleways should be tidied up in time for the summer.

Paige commented: "We don't really mind riding on the roads and most drivers are very careful around the ponies, but it isn't ideal!"

"We have really enjoyed discovering the bridlepaths and look forward to the summer and being able to explore them further and being able to share them with other riders!"

## School's cub reporters are on the case!

**PUPILS from years-3 to 6 recently published their first school newspaper called 'Sgw'.**

The 'Press Gang', led by year-6 teacher Matthew Mcavoy, were split up into groups with pen and notebook in hand and sent on scooping missions in the school.

They spoke to teachers about events in the school, past and present, wrote fact files about teachers, there was a

short story to enjoy as well as reporting on any sporting or fundraising events.

The paper was well received by pupils and staff. Editor Tion Davies, a pupil in year-6, said: "We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and all the staff helped with useful and interesting information."

"We've already begun to collect ideas for our next issue of Sgw."

## Rotary quiz in Dinas Powys

**THE Rotary Club of Dinas Powys is organising a village quiz in Dinas Powys Parish Hall on Friday, April 8 at 7.30pm (for an 8pm start).**

The quiz will raise funds for local charities. Teams are restricted to four persons, but there is no limit on the number of teams that may be entered. Entry is £20 per team, which will include a light supper. Beer, wine and some soft drinks will be available on the night.

For further information, contact Shaun Doyle or Natalie Crosby on 02920 330885 or [office@ivor-fire.co.uk](mailto:office@ivor-fire.co.uk).

CM

# YOUNG VOICES SPEAK OUT AT THE OPENING OF THE VALE YOUTH FORUM



**T**HE Vale Youth Forum (VYF) was officially launched in Barry recently.

The VYF is a new network for young people between the ages of 11 and 25 who live in the Vale of Glamorgan. Adolescents are encouraged to join the organisation and have a say in how their communities are shaped for the future. The VYF meet up at least once a month to highlight the views of young people and organise how to present them to the Vale Council and Welsh Assembly Government to encourage change.

Elected individuals from youth groups and schools across the Vale

## Report by JO PRICE

attended the opening.

Their intention was to introduce themselves and express their opinion on a particular community issue before an audience of councillors, trustees, politicians, friends and family.

Tracey Downes, temporary VYF co-ordinator, informed The GEM that the facilitators of the VYF had been preparing their ideas since their first meeting on December 16. She has played an important role in recruiting members of the VYF by approaching the heads of schools and youth centres.

Sharon Topazio, a trustee of the VYF, said

it was "great to see the representatives up on stage after they had been so busy rehearsing."

Dionn Meredith said that being part of a youth group and the VYF gave them all the "confidence to speak up."

Vale councillor, Gordon Kemp, described the youth forum as "fantastic."

Mr Kemp said the VYF's "interest and involvement in the community" made its participants reflect the values of PM David Cameron's 'big society' concept.

Jess, a member of the VYF's editorial group and youth group 'Funky Dragon' said: "It is our right to have our voices and opinions heard."

This sentiment was echoed later on by Keith Towler, the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

Mr. Towler referred to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in his speech and fully supported the work of the VYF in enabling children's voices to be heard.

He said: "There is nothing more powerful than when young people speak for themselves." He encouraged councillors to "work with young people" and told the VYF members that they "represent the future and here and now."

The young people had focused their discussions prior to the opening on sub-categories, the first being 'things that annoy us.'

Candy said the "cost of public transport was too expensive for youth in the Vale."

Ellis's concern was that, "vandalism ruins the places where we live". Emme wanted to "improve the impression of youth in the Vale."

Another concern of VYF members was 'lack of facilities.' Sian wanted to "improve sports facilities because there isn't enough for young people to do".

Thomas wanted local

councils to improve the condition of his local park. "Fencing in the park would stop us losing the ball," he said.

Scott wished he could "stop people hanging around the streets."

The third sub-committee was to prevent bullying. Chloe asked for there to be "more peer support groups in schools so pupils have someone to talk to and not feel alone".

The VYF members are currently working on a film called the 'Rights Busters.' It aims to raise awareness of the prejudice suffered by those with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Michael Owen explained that the film will feature superheroes that rescue individuals with learning difficulties from difficult social scenarios.

Additional publicity for the work of the VYF is managed online via the website [www.swoosh.me.uk](http://www.swoosh.me.uk) by a dedicated media team that records every meeting and event and aims to encourage more young people to take part.

Jane Hutt AM praised the VYF as a "launch pad for great things in the Vale" in the final speech of the night. She said she wanted the "youth forum to hold us to account as politicians".

The next step for the VYF is to recruit a full-time youth co-ordinator. It was a plea raised by VYF member, Connor, and several others throughout the evening.

The VYF has recently put in a request to the Vale Action Scheme through the Vale Council for three years funding to pay the wages of a full time youth co-ordinator.

The project wants to ensure the VYF members receive as much support as possible for their work and can continue to make progress. No decision has been made regarding the request as yet.

## New chief

*NatWest has appointed a senior bank manager for Glamorgan, to take charge of the bank's 10 local branches.*

Marlene Harries, who has been a senior bank manager for outer Cardiff and is a Welsh speaker, will be responsible for the bank's main branches in Bridgend, Barry, Cowbridge, Porthcawl and Penarth. She will also oversee its sub-branches in Pencoed, Llantwit Major and Dinas Powys.

## Wick YFC dinner-dance

WICK Young Farmers Group is holding its annual dinner dance at the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend, on Saturday, April 9 at 7pm. Contact Katie Evans on 07539 796420 or [www.ickyfc.co.uk](http://www.ickyfc.co.uk)

## Skin Studio of Penarth

**Skin Studio - Keeping clients smooth this summer**

We at Skin studio appreciate that the summer is coming and everyone wants the perfect beach body and who are we to get in the way!

We are offering the **first 100** Glamorgan Gem readers this once only offer:

Remove unwanted hair - for good with our laser hair removal!

Choose from the following deals:

- 6 treatments on one small area - was £300 now £99
- 6 treatments on one medium area - was £600 now £150
- 6 treatments on one large area - was £900 now £220

**Buy all 3 courses of 6 treatments for just £400 saving a massive £1400**

All body areas can be treated. Examples of these areas include:

**Small:** Lip and Chin. **Medium:** Underarms.

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Our laser hair removal machine Phaser EPL is the biggest innovation in hair removal method and technology for over fifty years. It offers a clinically proven, fast, safe and effective method for removing hair leaving you with smooth skin everyday, **so no more waxing or shaving ever!**

Call the clinic today to take advantage of this offer! Once its gone, its gone!

### Terms and conditions:

This offer is limited only to the first 100 bookings. Payment must be received in full by Saturday 9th April. For new clients to skin studio a full consultation and patch test will be required with a cost of £25. All body areas treated within one sitting per treatment. 48 hour cancellation policy - if clients miss a treatment within 48 hour cancellation notice the pre paid appointment will be taken and can be bought back at full price. Full payment must be made at point of booking. If paid for by debit or credit card there will be a £3 charge that will be applied at the point of transaction.

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**W: [www.skinstudiowales.com](http://www.skinstudiowales.com)**



ABOVE: The Vale Council Leader Gordon Kemp.



ABOVE: Vale AM Jane Hutt.



ABOVE: Michael Owen and Dionn Meredith.



LEFT: Keith Towler, the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

**GWOBRAU BWYD A DIOD**  
**FOOD & DRINK AWARDS 2011 - 2012**

**Y DYDDIAD CAU AR GYFER CEISIADAU YW 15 EBRILL 2011**  
Eleni rydym yn annog pawb i wneud cais ar-lein ar [gwirflas.tv](http://gwirflas.tv)  
Os nad ydych yn siŵr o unrhyw beth, colliwch ffonio  
**0800 085 3663**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS 15 APRIL 2011**  
This year we're encouraging everyone to enter online at [truetaste.tv](http://truetaste.tv)  
If there's anything you're unsure about simply call our advice hotline  
**0800 085 3663**

## High-flying Mike gets a lift on Goodyear 'blimp'



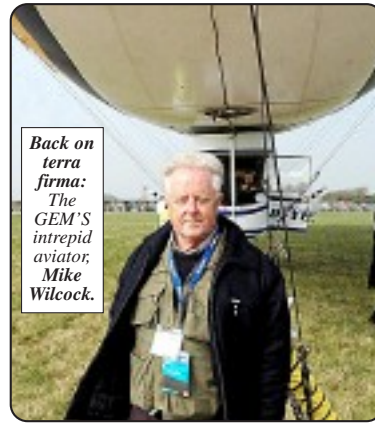
ABOVE: The Goodyear blimp in all its glory.  
BELOW: Penarth Pier as seen from the 'blimp'.



MANY people in the Vale saw the 'Goodyear blimp' touring the skies over the weekend, and GEM photographer Mike Wilcock (below) enjoyed a trip earlier this week.

Mike has done planes, trains and automobiles in the past, but an airship was a new experience for him. As you can see, among the sights captured by Mike from the air was Penarth Pier.

The idea behind the 'blimp' is to promote road safety and it is the first time it has been in Europe for more than 10 years.



Back on terra firma: The GEM's intrepid aviator, Mike Wilcock.

## Jasmine joins St John cadets at the Palace

FOURTEEN St John Wales' youngsters were meeting the Princess Royal at a special reception for young achievers in Buckingham Palace yesterday (Wednesday, March 30).

They were invited to the reception hosted by Princess Anne, Commandant-in-Chief (Youth) of St John Ambulance, for achieving their Grand Prior Award.

This is the highest award a St John Ambulance cadet can achieve and marks at least three years of sustained effort studying 24 different subjects, including working in the community, outdoor pursuits and first aid.

Among those being recognised was 17-year-old Jasmine Vincent of Barry, who has recently returned from Zambia after being part of a group which trained more than 3,500 people in lifesaving first aid skills.

Jasmine worked hard to achieve her Grand Prior award and has been a dedicated member of the Barry division since she was six.

She said: "The best part about being a member is being offered fantastic opportunities and having the ability to really make a difference in my community."

Jasmine knows how important it is to learn first aid skills, after helping casualties who were involved in a road traffic accident at Penarth last year.

"I helped by reassuring the casualties and waited with them until the ambulance arrived. "I also encouraged them to lie down and to elevate the limbs that were bleeding," she recalled.

Dr Bob Broughton, chief commander for St John Ambulance in Wales, said: "I'm delighted that we are able to send so many young members to the Palace to meet Her Royal Highness Princess Anne."

"It's so pleasing that we have so many exceptional representatives going from all over Wales to such a prestigious occasion."

St John Wales has a vibrant and growing youth movement – 70 per cent of its 4,900 volunteers are under the age of 25.

The charity is committed to offering young people a wide range of opportunities and organises a series of international and national events every year.

To become a member of St John Wales, or to find out about a division near you, contact 029 2044 9600.



PICTURED (left to right): Jackie Memory, Lauren, president Judith, and Christina.

## Praise from Soroptimists

SINCE 1996, to mark the centenary of secondary education for girls in Barry, members of Soroptimist International Barry and District, have presented a Cup to a Bryn Hafren school student who has made an outstanding contribution to the community.

As in previous years, possible recipients are suggested by club member and sixth form learning manager, Jackie Memory.

This year, members were asked to choose between Lauren O'Connell and Christina Brown.

Lauren hopes to study genetics at university, and her achievements include raising money for the British Heart Foundation and Great Ormond Street Hospital, running the year-7 eco group in school, and group in school, and training as a 'snowy owl' to enable her to

assist at her local Brownies.

Christina, who has applied to do a degree in environmental health in university, has raised money for Help for Heroes and will be doing a sky dive in May for this charity.

In her role as sixth form charity co-ordinator, she is excellent at motivating students and staff in varied projects from collecting bras for Senegal, to Christmas food hampers for the elderly, and shoe boxes for children abroad.

Members were unable to choose between these two remarkable young ladies, and club president, Judith Lewis, was delighted to jointly present the Cup, together with a cheque for £30 cheque, to each of these worthy recipients.

To find out more about us, visit [www.soroptimist-gbi.co.uk/barry-and-district](http://www.soroptimist-gbi.co.uk/barry-and-district).

Bryn Hafren pupils on their 'upcycling' expedition.



## 'Upcycling' fashion show is all in aid of local charity

BRYN Hafren pupils are putting their fashion sense to good use to help a local charity.

Miss Morgan, Mrs Saleem (PCGE student) and the year-10 textiles class have been working with the George Thomas Hospice for a future in-house fashion show (date to be confirmed).

Pupils visited the charity's shop to find garments that they could 'upcycle' and revamp into new fashion garments to model on the catwalk.

The pupils are going on an exciting trip to a celebrity fashion show at the Hilton Hotel where they will learn how a show is run and find inspiration for their own

show. Some pupils have even been given the opportunity to model at the show!

Once the final garments have been made, they will contribute towards the pupils' final

mark in their coursework portfolio. George Thomas in Barry have agreed to display the result in their shop window to demonstrate how DIY fashion can be trendy and fashionable.

The pupils from Miss Morgan's textiles group will be making a donation to the charity and wanted to say a big thank to the George Thomas Hospice!

## Vale AM supports Atal y Fro on 'Women's Day'

Joining the Atal y Fro International Women's Day event at the Mount Sorrell Hotel, Jane Hutt AM gave a speech on the centenary of International Women's Day.

The talk focussed on the recent challenges for women in the Vale and Wales, specifically, the threatened closure of the Vale Magistrates Court, which has a domestic abuse court, and the UK Government cuts in spending which could have an impact

on benefits and services important to women.

Jane Hutt said: "The Atal y Fro approach to tackling domestic abuse is pioneering. It is all about prevention and education as well as supporting the victims of abuse."

"I was delighted to speak at the event, applaud their work and help promote the 'Walk a Mile in Women's Shoes' organised by Atal y Fro and Barry Comprehensive school students at King Square."

## Sober message on a fun day: 'No place for domestic abuse'

PHOTOS by PAUL JONES  
For more pictures, go to: [www.valeevents.co.uk](http://www.valeevents.co.uk)

ON Saturday, March 26, a fun event was held in King Square Barry, but with a serious intent behind it.

Atal y Fro, local politicians and members of the public were keen to broadcast the message – "There is no excuse for domestic abuse".

Not only did the participants have a good time, passers-by were interested in what was being said, too.

BEST FOOT FORWARD!





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## 'This Morning by Prestige' arrives in Leekes stores

**P**RESTIGE, one of the nation's most recognised names in kitchenware, and ITV1's flagship daytime programme, *This Morning*, have teamed up to create an exciting new kitchen collection, which is available at Leekes.

The 'This Morning by Prestige' collection has been designed to 'make life a little easier'. The collection includes an aluminium non-stick saucepan set and pressure cooker, high performance non-stick bakeware and a stunning collection of oven to tableware.

The aluminium three-piece saucepan set is designed for the everyday chef, this non-stick is extremely durable.

'Soft touch' handles provide a comfort grip, whilst the glass lids allow for 'see through' cooking convenience. They are suitable for all cooker types, except induction.

The pressure cooker is the perfect way to cook healthy meals in a fraction of the time of conventional cooking.

The oven to tableware is designed for microwave, refrigerator and freezer use. Each item is also dishwasher safe and comes with a five-year guarantee.

The bakeware collection gives excellent heat conduction, with snazzy purple silicon grips providing secure handling when placing in and out of your oven. The non-stick coating allows for easy food release.

The 'This Morning by Prestige' collection is available in-store and online at [leekes.co.uk](http://leekes.co.uk) from April 2011.



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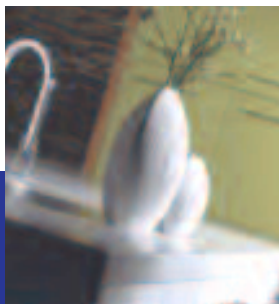
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# THE PETERSTON MATHS WORKSHOP GOES WITH A SWING FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS

RECOGNISING the importance of mathematics, the parents and pupils at Peterston Primary School took part in a three day workshop ending on March 11.

The basic methods of teaching the subject were discussed and demonstrated by pupils before parents joined in the projects through computer programmes, games and examples.

The sessions went with a real swing, with parents enjoying it as much as the pupils.

**PHOTOGRAPHS by  
IAN DIXON**



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## NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT LLANSANNOR SCHOOL

# Bungee trampolines, dry slope skiing, and quad bikes!

# Llansannor's pupils have 'Got Talent'



CLEAR THE WAY!

## Comprehensive team retains the Vale Sevens Cup

THE Cowbridge comprehensive year-9 rugby squad played some excellent Sevens and retained the Vale Sevens Cup with a comfortable 38-5 win in the final over Stanwell.

The school side won all the group games comfortably and beat Llantwit 42-0, Stanwell 67-0 and then Richard Gwyn 50-0.

The group of boys have worked hard on developing their skills levels and have trained every Tuesday since September. All of the training now seems to be paying off, as many of the pupils have made huge progress in fitness and skill development.

Captain Daniel Holder will now take his team to play a Welsh Cup quarter-final against Maes-Yr-Yrfa.



THE year-5 class from Llansannor Church in Wales Primary School went to Llangrannog for three days to take part in a wide variety of outdoor and adventurous activities, such as quad bikes, horse riding, dry slope skiing and bungee trampolines.

"It was a hugely successful trip with plenty of Welsh being spoken and a great deal of fun being had by the children. Bendigedig!" a spokesperson said.



LLANSANNOR Church in Wales Primary School raised a fantastic £213 for Red Nose Day on by having a talent show and non-uniform day.

A school spokeswoman said: "The children put on an amazing show with a huge variety of acts. We were entertained with jokes and magic acts, wowed by

gymnastic and ball skills, stunned into silence by a range of musical instruments and thrilled by brilliant singing and dance routines.

"It was a super afternoon and a fun way to help Comic Relief. Well done to all the children who performed for the school!"

## Tributes to Vale tenor Robert Tear

THE celebrated Barry-born tenor and conductor Robert Tear, who died on Tuesday, has been described as "an outstanding musician and formidably intelligent".

Mr Tear, a product of Barry Boys Grammar School, was world famous in operatic circles and awarded a CBE in 1984.

Russell Morton, the head of music at the Welsh National Opera, was keen to emphasise not only Mr Tear's talents, but his generosity to fellow colleagues:

"Bob Tear's outstanding musicianship and formidable intelligence, together with his mischievous sense of humour, made him a total joy to work with."

"He was unfailingly generous to younger colleagues and musicians."

"Those of us who had the pleasure of working with Bob will miss him hugely."

Mr Tear was a choral scholar at King's College Cambridge, and later became an honorary fellow of the college. His operatic debut was in 1966 and he went on to appear at some of the world's most famous operatic venues

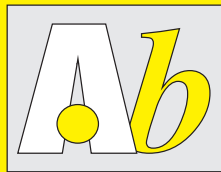
such as Covent Garden and Glynebourn.

His performances with the Welsh National opera included Salome in 1988, Billy Budd in 1998 and Eugene Onegin in 2004.

His conducting career began in 1985 in Minneapolis. He also contributed to 250 recordings worldwide.

Mr Tear was an honorary fellow of the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama.

He died, aged 72, on Tuesday, March 29 due to cancer of the oesophagus.



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### LLANTWIT MAJOR - £360,000

Individually designed detached four bedroom family residence and detached double garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Cloakroom, Two bedrooms and Bathroom to ground floor, two further bedrooms and Cloakroom to first floor, adjoining Summer house and Conservatory currently used as a games room. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazing. Good size gardens and greenhouse. Freehold Ref 468D



### LLANTWIT MAJOR - £375,000

Individual detached residence with tandem garage situated on a large plot to the southern side of the town. Porch, Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Study, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Three bedrooms, en-suite and dressing room to master bedroom, family bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and gardens to front, side and rear. Freehold Ref 544D



### LLANTWIT MAJOR - £145,000

Three bedroom semi-detached house with double glazed Conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Driveway leads to the garage which is currently used as a workshop. Garden to front and rear. No onward chain. Freehold Ref 563D



### BOVERTON - £179,950

Modern well maintained three bedroom detached house with integral garage comprising Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom/WC. Gas fired central heating. Double glazed windows. Driveway and well kept gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 564D.



### LLANTWIT MAJOR - £249,950

Modern established five bedroom detached house with integral garage situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Family Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and ample parking. Garden to front, sides and rear. Freehold Ref 579D



### LLANTWIT MAJOR - £85,000

Purpose built two bedroom first floor flat which forms part of a retirement housing development and has a residential warden. Accommodation comprises Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom with shower. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows. Communal facilities. Parking area. Ref 580D



### LLANTWIT MAJOR - £225,000

Well maintained established four bedroom detached house and attached garage comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and neatly laid gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 581D



### LLANTWIT MAJOR - £239,950

Modern four bedroom detached house and detached garage situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room with patio doors to rear, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating and UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and garden to front and mature large garden to the rear. Freehold Ref 582D



### LLANTWIT MAJOR - £120,000

Established three bedroom mid link house comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Cloakroom, Outhouse, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows. Low maintenance gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 583D.



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|-------------------|------|---------|----------|
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| Arthur Davis Ct   | 8    | Bronze  | 10/01/11 |
| Arthur Davis Ct   | 3    | Silver  | 04/03/11 |
| Columbus Close    | 84   | Gold    | 15/12/10 |
| Dyfrig Court      | 33   | Gold    | 29/11/10 |
| Gwenog Court      | 16   | Gold+   | 04/01/11 |
| Gwyn James Ct     | 9    | Gold    | 10/05/10 |
| Heol Y Llongau    | 118  | Gold    | 04/11/10 |
| Heol Y Llongau    | 54   | Gold+   | 16/08/10 |
| Hunt Place        | 13   | Bronze  | 10/08/10 |
| Liddicoat Ct      | 16   | Silver  | 10/03/11 |
| Maes Yr Ysgol     | 58   | Gold+   | 09/11/10 |
| Michaelston Close | 81   | Gold+   | 26/02/10 |
| Monmouth Way      | 20   | Gold    | 06/12/10 |
| Narberth Court    | 34   | Gold    | 16/12/10 |
| North Walk        | 25   | Gold+   | 08/02/11 |
| O'Donnell Road    | 67   | Gold    | 23/11/10 |
| Owain Court       | 5    | Bronze  | 18/09/09 |
| Parkland Walk     | 19   | Silver+ | 26/01/11 |
| Pendine Close     | 39   | Gold    | 21/02/11 |
| Pontalun Close    | 18   | Gold    | 17/12/10 |
| Severn Avenue     | 38   | Gold +  | 22/09/10 |
| St Catherine's Ct | 28   | Gold    | 03/06/10 |
| Stewart Road      | 40   | Gold    | 26/07/10 |
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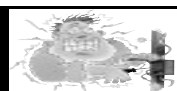


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Closing date 8th April, 2011.

Please note, you'll be employed by an agent of NFU Mutual and not by NFU Mutual directly.

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## Public Notices

### PUBLIC NOTICE

COWBRIDGE (ANCIENT BOROUGH) WITH LLANBLETHIAN TOWN COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Vacancy exists on the above named Council

#### LLANBLETHIAN WEST WARD

The Council, in accordance with Section 21(1)(a) Representation of the People Act 1985, shall fill this vacancy by way of co-option.

Any\* qualifying Local Government elector who is interested in the possibility of being co-opted onto the Town Council should inform the undersigned in writing no later than

**1.00 pm Friday 8th April 2011**

\*Please note that it is not a requirement to reside within the Ward.

Dated this 24th March 2011.

Mr Andrew Davies, Town Clerk  
Cowbridge (Ancient Borough)  
with Llanblethian Town Council  
Town Hall, 21 High Street, Cowbridge CF71 7AD

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# GEM Family Notices

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## TERRY HALLETT

Happy 70th Birthday

31st March, 2011

To the greatest Dad and Grandad ever!

All our love, Emma, Martin, David, Matthew and all your grandchildren  
**XXX**



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## Family Notices

### TWOMEY John

Peacefully at Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor on March 22nd.

John, aged 56 years, formerly of Jenner Street, Barry, dearly beloved son of the late Jim and Mary Twomey, much loved brother of Pat, Moira, Norma, Anne and the late Bill and Terry, brother-in-law of Joan, David and Mike, loving uncle to all his nieces and nephews.

Resting at A. G. Adams & Son, Tynnewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his requiem Mass at St Helen's RC Church, Barry on Tuesday, April 5th at 10am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only but donations in lieu to Mencap, Barry

### EVANS

#### Arthur Henry

Peacefully on March 23rd at Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend.

Arthur (Big Arthur, retired Driver Aberthaw Cement) of Gileston. Devoted husband of Hilary, dearly loved father of Robert, dear father-in-law of Ceri, much loved grandfather and great grandfather (Bapi) of Llinos-Wyn, Lloyd and partner Claire, and Gethin.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons Fommon. Funeral Thursday, March 31st, Service 2.15pm. at Llysowrney Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.45pm.

No Flowers by request. Donation if desired to Velindre Hospital, c/o J. W. James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

### DAVIES

#### Phyllis (Phyl)

Peacefully on March 22nd at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a short illness.

Much loved wife of the late Canon Bill Davies and devoted mother of Anne, Peter and Andrew and loving grandma to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service at 1.15pm on Thursday March 31 at St John's Church, Llanblethian, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm.

Family flowers only please, but donations to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice, Head Office, St Hilary Court, Copthorne Way, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff CF15 6ES.

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VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
(MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)  
ACT 1982 AS AMENDED BY  
SECTION 27 OF THE POLICING  
AND CRIME ACT 2009



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG  
DEDDO LLYWODRAETH LEOL  
(DARPARIAETHAU AMRYWIOL)  
1982 FEL Y DIWYGIWYD GAN  
ADRAN 27 O DDEDDO PLISMONA  
A THROSEDD 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 Vale of Glamorgan Council (the Council) passed a resolution that the provisions of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (The Act) as amended by Section 27 of The Policing and Crime Act 2009 shall apply to the Vale of Glamorgan Council with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011.

The effect of this resolution is that the Vale of Glamorgan Council will be able to regulate sex establishments. Any person wishing to operate a sex establishment as defined by Schedule 3 requires a sex establishment licence, unless the requirement for a licence has been waived by the Council.

Local people will have a greater say over the regulation of these premises.

Sex establishments are sexual entertainment venues, sex cinemas or sex shops.

A sexual entertainment venue means any premises at which relevant entertainment is provided before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer. Relevant entertainment may include lap dancing, strip shows and table dancing or other similar forms of entertainment as decided on a case by case basis.

Adoption will also ensure applications for sex establishments are considered and activities are appropriately controlled under the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Licensing regime.

Further information is available at:  
[www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or by contacting the Licensing Section on 01446 709105 or email [Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

HYSBYSIR TRWY HYN fod Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn gallu rheoli sefydliadau rhyw. Bydd rhaid i unrhyw un sydd am redeg sefydliad rhyw fel y diffinir yn Aodlen 3, gael trwydded, oni bai bod y Cyngor wedi hepgor yr argen all hysg.

Mae hyn yn golygu y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn gallu rheoli sefydliadau rhyw. Bydd rhaid i unrhyw un sydd am redeg sefydliad rhyw fel y diffinir yn Aodlen 3, gael trwydded, oni bai bod y Cyngor wedi hepgor yr argen all hysg.

Bydd gan bobl leol fwy o lais o rin rheoleddio sefydliadau o'r fath.

Ysbyr sefydliadau rhyw yw lleoliadau adoniant rhyw, ammlu rhyw neu siopau rhyw.

Mae lleoliad adoniant rhyw yn golygu unrhyw le sy'n cynnwys adoniant perfformio perfformio cynulleidfia ffw ar budd atannol y trefnydd neu'r sawl sy'n ddiannu. Gall adoniant perfformio gynnwys dawnsio gln, siocau stripio a dawnsio burid neu fathau tebyg o'rall o adoniant a benderlyniar leuol achos.

Bydd mabwysiadu'r darpariaethau hyn hefyd yn golygu bod censiadau ar gyfer sefydliadau rhyw yn cael eu hygyddio, a bod gweithgareddau'n cael eu rheoli'n briodol dan sefydliadau trwyddedau Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael yn:  
[www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk](http://www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk) neu trwy ffonio'r Is-adrann Drwyddedau ar 01446 709105 neu e-bostio [Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995

### CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

#### Listed Building Consent Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

|                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Application No:/ Rhif y cais:       | 2011/00221/LBC                   |
| Proposal/Cynnig:                    | Replace two windows and backdoor |
| Location/Lleoliad:                  | 3, Tower Hill Avenue, Penarth    |
| Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig | Grade II                         |

|                                     |                                                        |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Application No:/ Rhif y cais:       | 2011/00241/LBC                                         |
| Proposal/Cynnig:                    | Repointing and repair to stonework external elevations |
| Location/Lleoliad:                  | Llansanor Court, Llansanor                             |
| Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig | Grade I                                                |

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at [vog.planning-register.co.uk](http://vog.planning-register.co.uk)

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i [vog.planning-register.co.uk](http://vog.planning-register.co.uk).

Dated: 31 March, 2011  
Rob Thomas  
Head of Planning and Transportation  
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,  
Dock Office,  
Barry Docks,  
Barry  
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 31 Mawrth, 2011  
Rob Thomas  
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant  
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,  
Swyddfa'r Doc,  
Dociau'r Barri,  
Y Barri  
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(12/13)

## ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

**R**IDING honours at the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Ystradowen last Saturday went to Tom David of Llanharan, who rode his first ever treble.

After finishing second on the long odds-on favourite *Green Mining* in the members' race, David went on to win on *Billybo* (aged maiden), *Little Shilling* (mixed open) and *Ask The Thatcher* (restricted).

*Billybo*, an eight-year-old bay gelding, owned by Aberthin's Tim Vaughan and trained by his wife Abbi, was in a handy position throughout and went clear three fences from home to win by five lengths from *WheresThePost*, ridden by Jodie Hughes.

*Little Shilling*, who, back in 2008, won six hurdle races on the trot, jumped the last fence alongside the favourite *Sir Monty*, partnered by Welsh champion rider John Mathias, and in an exciting finish got home by three quarters of a length from the early pacemaker *Merdeka* a further 20 lengths back in third spot.

*Little Shilling* is owned by Barry's Andrew Lowrie and has the Welsh Point-To-Point 'Grand National' at the Pentrych at Bonvilston on April 23 as his next target.

*Ask The Thatcher*, a seven-year-old bay gelding, owned and trained by Bridgend's David Brace, looked a beaten horse when *Tenspinsinhiits*, ridden by Isabel Tompsett, took over the running with three fences to jump. However, despite being half-a-length or so down at the last fence, *Ask The Thatcher* fought back bravely on the run to the winning post to win by half-a-length.

There was a presentation during the afternoon to David's grandmother, Mrs Olive Thomas, of Flemingston, who, up until this year, has been the entries secretary for more years than she cares to remember and who has

now graciously agreed to become the hunt's point-to-point treasurer.

Three of the nine entries faced the starter for the members' race and this resulted in a win for Helen Porter's French-bred *Obelix De Longchamps* who, under Nathan Deakin, jumped to the front at the second last fence to score by 25 lengths from Brett Lloyd's *Green Mining*, with Lucy Brice's *Cool Cliche* a further 12 lengths away.

The longest priced winner of the day was 20-1 chance *The Duckster* who, confidently ridden by Paul Tolman, had two-and-a-half lengths to spare over *Lady Trig* in the young horse maiden race.

The favourite, *Hidden Bay*, ridden by Tolman's partner Jodie Hughes, finished sixth and last of the 13 runners.

Not much bigger than a pony, *The Duckster*, a seven-year-old bay gelding, was running for the first time this season and is trained by his rider.

The club members' race went to *Attorney General*, owned and trained by Pembrokeshire National Hunt trainer Dai Rees.

A 12-year-old bay gelding by *Saddler's Wells*, and a former inmate of Sir Mark Prescott's yard, *Attorney General*, ridden by John Mathias, drew away in the closing stages to win by 20 lengths from *Rich Nomad* partnered by Ben Poste.

Honorary secretary Peter Thomas was delighted with the tremendous crowd that turned up to witness some exciting racing and the Ystrad & Taf Fechan Hunt, which will be holding their annual races over the course on April 16, will be hoping that their meeting will attract just as big a crowd.

Next Saturday, the Monmouthshire Hunt Point-To-Point will be held at Llanvapley near Abergavenny. First race at 2pm.

You can email your views/news to Brian Lee at [leebrian@btinternet.com](mailto:leebrian@btinternet.com) or phone him on 02920 736438.



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# COWBRIDGE SCHOOL'S ATHLETES EXCEL IN THE SPORTS HALL FINALS

**THE Welsh Schools Sports Hall Athletics finals were held at the Cwmbran Stadium where 21 athletes were selected to represent the City of Cardiff and Vale Schools.**

## Boys under-15

**IN this all rounder competition, athletes choose a sprint, a jump and a choice of speed bounce or shot putt.**

Year-10 pupil Rafi Shrizard, who joined us back in September from Afghanistan, thoroughly enjoyed his day with second place in the two lap non-scoring event and fifth in the shot putt with 10.62m.

Year-9 pupil George Griffiths helped the team of six to win the overall team award, which will take them to the British finals in Birmingham on April 3. George finished sixth in the two-lap race, fifth in the shot putt and got another Welsh title in the standing triple jump with 8.18m.

That performance gave him an overall points total of 131 to finish in bronze medal position in the all rounder competition behind two boys from north east Wales.

## Girls under-15

**SARAH Lewis finished 16th in the two-lap race, 12th in the speed bounce (with 71) and 4th in the vertical jump (with 48cm).**

Caitlin Allin finished 8th in the two-lap race, 4th in the speed bounce (with 75), and 13th in the vertical jump (with 43cm).

Izzy Eddy-Williams was 11th in the 4-lap race, 4th in the speed bounce (with 75) and 4th in the standing long jump (with 2.21m).

In the all-round points total, Izzy finished 8th out of 46 competitors. All three girls helped their county team to silver medal position in the team event.

## Girls under-13

**THE county team finished 4th overall with the help of the following girls:**

Ela Emyr – 12th in 4-lap race (1m 03.9); 11th in vertical jump (39cm); 4th in 4x2 lap race.

Brooke Langton-Cryer – 6th in shot (7.35m); 4th in 4x1 lap race; 4th in obstacle race.

Ellie Eddy-Williams – 10th in 4-lap race (1m 02.01); 10th in standing long jump (1.87m); 4th in 4x1 lap race.

Sally Gambling – 5th 2-lap final; 4th in 2-lap

race.

Sian Davies – 4th in 4x2 lap; 8th in standing triple jump (4.80m).

Sashimi Jayasinghe – 8th in high jump (1.10m); 4th in 4x2 lap.

Maya Bell – 8th in 6-lap (1m 42.3); 6th in 8 lap; silver medal (2nd) in standing long jump (2.15m).

## Boys under-13

Scott Thomas – gold medal (1st) in 2-lap non-scoring.

Harrison Stevens – 4th in vertical jump (49cm); bronze medal (3rd) in 4x1 lap relay.

Nathan Robson – 5th in shot (9.16m); bronze medal (3rd) in 4x1 lap relay; bronze medal (3rd) in obstacle race.

Daniel Oddy – 7th in shot (7.16m); bronze medal (3rd) in 4x1 lap relay; bronze medal (3rd) in obstacle race.

Ellis Rosser – bronze medal (3rd) in 6 lap race (1m30.5); 7th in vertical jump (46cm); gold medal (1st) in 8-lap parlour.

Rian Thomas – silver medal (2nd) in 6 lap race (1m29.2); bronze medal (3rd) in standing long jump (2.17m); gold medal (1st) in 8 lap parlour.

Kristian Jones – gold medal (1st) in 4-lap (53.8sec); 4th in speed bounce (66); gold medal (1st) in 4x2 lap relay.

Tom Trotman – gold medal (1st) in 2-lap (24.7sec); gold medal (1st) in high jump 91.55m; gold medal (1st) in 4x2 lap relay.

What a fantastic set of results from the seven boys out of 12 in the county team from Cowbridge Comprehensive School. All this effort with the other five members takes them to the British Finals on April 3 as Welsh champions.

GW

## RUGBY

**THE school senior rugby squad will travel to Llandeilo to face Tregib Comprehensive in the semi-final of the Nation Vase Competition.**

Captain Ben Smith will have the benefit of a full strength squad to select from for the first time all season. The game will be played at Llandeilo RFC.

In the league, there was another disappointing performance from the senior squad who lost 33-3 against Bro Morgannwg. After a very pleasing start to the game, the school team started to lose focus

and a number of players missed simple first tackles.

Once again, the school paid the price of not having any grass to train on over the past two years. However, the squad will be very disappointed with the second half performance in particular.

## INDOOR CRICKET

**COWBRIDGE year-7 and 8 cricket team took part in the annual indoor girl's county cricket tournament.**

Cathedral School, Howells and Radyr Schools also took part. The Cowbridge team have been practising with coach Bethan Moorcraft on a Friday with the new indoor cricket nets. In the morning session, a round robin competition took place.

Cowbridge faced Cathedral School first. After losing the toss, Cowbridge batted first. Cathedral took three wickets in the first over (Josie Palmer, Emily Davies and Maddie Breed). However, wickets taken slowed down and Rosa Harman kept calm and scored some well-earned runs for the team, as did Megan McNamee and Laurie Thomas.

Cowbridge finished on 42 runs after 10 overs.

Cathedral then batted but Cowbridge gave away too many wides and Cathedral won after five overs. However, Laurie Thomas took a hat trick in a row in the last over! Cathedral scored 64, so won the match by 22 runs.

In the second game, Howells batted first and scored 51, and again Laurie Thomas took three wickets. The fielding was very tight by Cowbridge! When Cowbridge batted, they scored 70 to win by 18 runs.

In the final round of the round robin, Cowbridge played Radyr, who batted first and scored 88. Again, bowlers Laurie Thomas, Josie Palmer, Maddie Breed and Emily Davies did well and took seven wickets between them.

Cowbridge then went into bat. It was very close throughout and it all came down to the last over and after two wides and four runs, Cowbridge took the win by one run!

In the other matches, Cathedral won all three games, Radyr lost against Cathedral and Cowbridge and Howells lost all three matches.

After lunch, Cathedral played Howells and won and Cowbridge played Radyr again.

Radyr had lost their heads from the first match and scored 45 after 10 overs. Cowbridge won after five overs, scoring 47, and only Rosa Hartman, Laurie Thomas, Megan McNamee and Josie Palmer got to bat.

In the overall final, Cowbridge faced Cathedral again. Cathedral batted first and made 93. Unfortunately, Cowbridge could only make 48. All of the team played well in their first tournament.

Team: Olivia Wood, Josie Palmer, Emily Davies, Maddie Breed, Hetty Breed, Rosa Hartman, Mille Green, Megan McNamee, Hannah Lee and captain Laurie Thomas.

Well done and a big thank you to Bethan Moorcraft for her coaching.

The Cowbridge year-9 and 10 girls cricket team played in the Cardiff and Vale county indoor cricket tournament at Talybont.

Cathedral, Howells and Michaelston Community College were Cowbridge's competitors.

Cowbridge faced Michaelston first and they scored 29 from 10 overs. Laurie Thomas (year-8), Mairi Boxall, Caitlin Allin and Niamh Gallagher all bowled and there was some great wicketkeeping from Liz Whitehouse.

Cowbridge batted and scored 98; Niamh scored 16 and Mairi had to retire after scoring 20.

In the second game, Howells batted first and scored an amazing 110. Once again, there was some great fielding by Cowbridge especially by Laurie Thomas, who took two wickets in the first over.

Cowbridge batted and it was level throughout with Niamh, Laurie and Caitlin all scoring 20 and having to retire by the ninth over. These players came back in after all the other girls were out and Cowbridge just eased ahead, winning by eight runs!

The third match was against the Cathedral School, who batted first and scored 136. Niamh Gallagher took a good catch and Kate Llewellyn fielded well for Mairi Boxall to get two quick wickets!

Cathedral's fielding and bowling was very tight and didn't give anything away. Cowbridge scored 67.

In the round robin competition, Cathedral came first, Cowbridge second, Howells third, and Michaelston fourth.

Cathedral then played Michaelston and won. Cowbridge had a rematch against Howells. Howells were out for revenge and Cowbridge, without their only regular cricket player, Laurie Thomas, struggled.

Howells scored 107 but did manage to lose all eight wickets with Josie Chivers excelling in the field. Cowbridge could only manage to score 81

this time, so Howells went through to the overall final playing Cathedral.

Well done to all the girls who took part.

Team: Liz Whitehouse, Mairi Boxall, Caitlin Allin, Angharad Davies, Eliza Smith, Hannah Woodward, Niamh Gallagher, Kate Llewellyn, Josie Chivers, Hannah Talor, Laurie Thomas.

## HOCKEY

**COWBRIDGE hosted the year-7 preliminary hockey tournament with Radyr and Howells as our competitors.**

Cowbridge played Howells first, and after three minutes Howells found the back of the goal. There were no other goals during the match with great defence by Megan Duncombe, Isabel Smith and Sian Smith, and attacking by Gemma Viney, Seren Allin, Cerys Bradshaw and Ella Williams trying their hardest to score.

The game finished 1-0 to Howells. In the second game, Howells played Radyr and won this game 4-0.

Cowbridge played Radyr in the third game.

Radyr scored in the first minute of the game as Cowbridge had not switched on yet. Cerys Bradshaw scored to make it 1-1 before half-time.

In the second half, Cerys Bradshaw scored again but within seconds Radyr replied with a goal and quickly scored another, making it 3-2.

Gemma Viney, the player of the match, got a well deserved goal to make it 3-3 at the final whistle.

In the competition, Howells came first, Cowbridge second and Radyr third.

Team: GK Hetty Breed, Defence Sian Smith, Isobel Fisher, Isobel Smith, Martha Holder, Midfield Niamh Galton, Niamh Jenkins, Seren Allin, Megan Duncombe, Molly Price and attack of Ella Williams, Gemma Viney and Cerys Bradshaw.

## BASKETBALL

**COWBRIDGE year-9 played Stanwell, their last game before the final at WISP sports centre in Sophia Gardens.**

The first 10 minutes set the pattern for the game, with Cowbridge dominating both boards and putting Stanwell under real pressure with their usual full court aggressive man-to-man defence. During this period, Stanwell only managed to score a couple of baskets, while Cowbridge scored freely. Stanwell never gave up, and with a partisan crowd behind them they gave their all, but the result was never in question with Cowbridge running out easy winners 42-17.

Tom Trotman scored the basket of the game, and possibly the season, catching the ball in mid air and shooting before he hit the ground, NBA style.

All the team played well but it was top scorer Harry Stubbington who was man of the match.

The team was particularly pleased, as this win was without regular high scorer George Griffiths, who was ill.

They all look forward now to the final and moving on to the Welsh Championships at Rhondda Fach LC on April 13.

On Tuesday, March 15, having won all their games in the Vale Championship, Cowbridge played Glyn Derw, who were the runners-up in the Cardiff Championship.

With Tom Trotman playing rugby for the year-9 team, they were a key player down.

There was no need to worry as they scored from the tip off and never looked back!

Cowbridge's superior passing and shooting soon built up a healthy lead and were able to run the bench. Their shooting and passing improved as the game went on and they scored some really slick baskets, with the ball sometimes not touching the ground from one end to another.

The final score was 62-10 to Cowbridge. It was difficult to pick out a man of the match as the bench was run extensively and key players were rested, but the honour was awarded to David Griffiths for top scoring with 14 points.

They now move on the finals at WISP in Sophia Gardens. They play Cardiff High, who are also unbeaten.

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## Cowbridge under-7s' round robin success

A FINE day saw Cowbridge make the short trip to Llantwit Major for a round robin against the hosts and two Pontypridd teams.

With the large Cowbridge squad evenly split between two teams, the Greens and the Whites, all the boys saw plenty of pitch time.

Game 1 was against the Pontypridd B team and the Cowbridge boys were quickly into their stride with full length scoring runs being the order of the day.

The Cowbridge defence was stronger than the Pontypridd one and the subsequent turnovers gave the boys a well deserved victory, final score 8-5.

Scorers: Tom Brennan (2), Finlay Ball, Finlay Brace, Ethan Francis, Archie Lloyd, Sam Payne, Ifor Rees.

Game 2 was against the hosts Llantwit Major and the results were very similar to the first match.

Final score 8-5 to Cowbridge, scorers Reuben Davies (3), Rhydian Williams (2), Robbie Brown, Evan Davies, Steffan Evans.

Game 3 was against the Pontypridd A team who had defeated the hosts in a closely fought encounter.

The Cowbridge boys once again were able to match their illustrious counterparts and won, the final score 7-5.

Scorers Reuben Davies (3), Rhydian Williams (3), Akka Guwy.

While it's lovely to see the Cowbridge team being able to run in tries from all over the pitch, the defence is still falling back and waiting for the opposition to run around them.

Special mention must be made for the sterling work put in by Tom Brennan, Robbie Brown, Iolo Davies, Reuben Davies and Akka Guwy, who

were to the vanguard of the defensive moves; what you do in training is not just for Wednesday nights!

Squad: Finlay Ball, Tom Brennan, Finlay Brace, Robbie Brown, Henri Cairns, Evan Davies, Iolo Davies, Reuben Davies, Steffan Evans, Ethan Francis, Akka Guwy, James Jones, Archie Lloyd, Sam Payne, Ifor Rees, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Luke Tredwell.

### Under 12s

COWBRIDGE defeated local rivals Llantwit Major with a comfortable win away from home. Three tries from Dan Bunney (the second hat trick in consecutive games) and Harrison Stevens, plus one each from Duncan Ace and Cai Evans provided a confidence booster before their Blues Cup semi-final against Pontypridd next week.

Cai Evans also had an excellent all round kicking game, including six conversions.

The home side had no answer to the well controlled rucks and mauls of their opponents, with Ollie Rampling, Will Couzins and Josh Evans prominent throughout the game.

Whenever Llantwit threatened the Cowbridge line brave tackling from Tomos Evans-Williams, Henry Jones and Matthew Keating held them at bay.

Scrum half Osian John regularly provided quick ball to allow Seán Davies, Toff Patel and Charlie Pegrum to breach the Llantwit defence time and again.

The home side made a valiant effort to score near the end of the game but a try saving tackle from Charlie Martin prevented the visitors crossing the line for a final score of Cowbridge 52, Llantwit Major 0.

MTL

## Cowbridge squash team win in peculiar set of circumstances!

NEWPORT E travelled to the Cowbridge Athletic Ground for a do-or-die relegation battle with the Cowbridge A Bar 44 squash, but may have come unstuck from what was a 3-2 win on the night for the Gwent team.

Team selection should reflect squash club players ability rankings, but the Newport line-up featured a player from the higher ranked Newport Ds at No 1.

League rules state that the infringing team lose all points gained from the illegal position down, hence reversing the result from 8-15 to 19-0 to Cowbridge, which virtually secures mid-table safety – even a narrow chance of a promotion slot!

For the record, the match took the following course.

Garfield Leask (No 3) was outplayed by the experienced Mike Logan and consequently dipped to a 0-3.

Simon Payne was again involved in another epic 5-setter – eventually coming through 9-6 in the fifth with a couple of tie-break games on

the journey.

At No 5, Niall Sloan looked out of sorts for the first two games before looking to have turned the corner in game three with a 9-2; but his young Newport opponent stepped on the gas to run out a 3-1 winner.

Number 1 Nick Guard had a virtual stroll in the park (9-0, 9-1, 9-4) against the Newport No 1 – clearly the product of split-strength teams from the Rodney Parade lads.

This meant the match was finely balanced at 2-2 with another marathon match taking place at No 2 – the hard-running of Jon Bisson paid dividends in the early stages with JB taking a 2-0 lead, but his 17-year-old opponent, George Evans, found the fight to match his youth to run out the eventual 3-2 winner.

The Cowbridge Bs Bar 44 were entertained by St Mellons E on every squash player's

favourite night out – 5pm on a Sunday!

Unfortunately, the Bs are back in the mire, only coming away with six points from a 1-4 defeat and now have the prospect of taking on league leaders Barry to attain enough points to stave off relegation.

Only Colin Baxter (No 4) could produce a winning performance, 3-1. Numbers 1 to 3, Paul Reynish, Chris Ranger and Richie Ford, managed a point each in their 1-3 results while Russ Watts drew a blank at No 5 – match result 6-17.

The Cowbridge Cs Shampan had a rest week, but need a big win against Cardiff

University B in their final fixture and hope that Old Penarthians C go down badly at UHW A.

Club details available from Clive Prigg (01446 773729); club skipper russ.watts@btopen-world.com.

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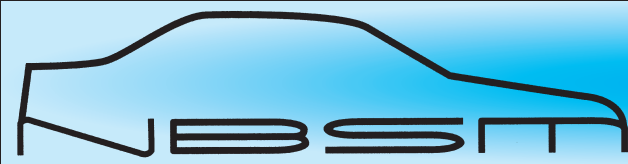
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| 52 | FORD Fiesta 1.6 Ghia 5-dr. In gun metal silver, 34,000 miles, 1 family from new                | £3,695                           |
| 55 | FORD Ka 1.3 Style. In silver, 41,600 miles, nice looking example with low insurance            | £3,295                           |
| 57 | CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE 5-dr. In red with cd, e/w, c/l and low insurance                        | £2,995                           |
| 54 | RENAULT Megane 1.4 Authentique 5-dr. In met blue, 72,000 miles, 1 private owner with air con   | £2,995                           |
| 53 | VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi. Met green, a/c, elec windows, very attractive car                      | £2,995                           |
| 03 | RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-dr. In black, low mileage, local car with alloys                 | £2,995                           |
| 03 | RENAULT Clio 1.6 Billabong in met lime green, 67,000 miles, sunroof and a/c                    | £2,995                           |
| 03 | RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamic 3-dr. In black, 68,000 miles, alloys, sunroof                         | £2,995                           |
| 53 | ROVER 75 1.8 T SE in met gold, 77,000 miles, fantastic value for money                         | £2,795                           |
| 51 | RENAULT Clio 1.2 Authentique 3-dr in met blue, 68,000 miles, ideal first car                   | £2,195                           |

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**blackhorse**

# NEW LAP RECORDS MADE BY YOUNG RACERS AT LLLANDOW KARTING CLUB

**THE second round of Llandow Kart Club's 2011 championship was notable not only for the warm sunshine that graced the majority of race-day, but also for a glut of new lap records.**

With an entry slightly up on February's opening round, no fewer than six classes saw their benchmark times rewritten during a remarkable day, with other drivers

either breaking or threatening the old mark to underline the pace of the Llandow circuit.

As has become customary, the Bambino class got things under way with five runners, including a couple of new faces in Marco Costanza and William Elswood.

While both newcomers gave good accounts of themselves, the fastest times again belonged to those with previous experience, as Max Fenlon, George Alp-Williams and Alex

Austin filled the top three positions. Fenlon also underlined his early-season form with the first new lap record of the day.

Honda Cadet again boasted the biggest field of the day, with 16 drivers taking to the track, but once more proved to be about Ryan Edwards and Brandon Patrick. The pair shared the heat wins between them, with Edwards emerging on top, before engaging in a tense battle throughout the 10-lap final.

Although Edwards made the most of pole-to-lead, he could not shake his pursuer, and Patrick made the most of a rare chance to slip through two laps from home and hold on for victory. Hugo Holmes, who twice finished in the top three in the heats, completed the podium ahead of Daniel and Ross Thomas.

The Comer Cadet class may have had only half the number of run-



**Ross Chell and Scott Morris do battle at the head of the Junior TKM field in round two of Llandow Kart Club's 2011 championship.**

ners, but still provided close competition as Isaac Channing and Lewis Griffiths battled over top spot. Griffiths edged the heats and then withstood concerted pressure from Channing throughout the final to cross the line just 0.09secs ahead of the flag.

In a race where positions remained static

despite the well-matched field, Jack Barber claimed third place, as he had in each of the heats.

After serving notice of his potential as he returned to action in February's season-opener, Daniel Jones dominated proceedings in Junior Honda. In the absence of Welsh and Celtic champion Lloyd Sealy, Jones might have been expected to take control against three novices, but the MS-mounted driver was only denied a clean sweep by a second heat DNF, and broke the lap record on several occasions as he romped away with the final. Monty Gorridge, who claimed heat two following Jones' mishap, claimed runners-up honours ahead of Danny Griffiths.

With insufficient numbers in either class to warrant separate grids, Junior TKM and Minimax were again combined in an eight-kart field. Having swept all four races in February, Ross Chell found Scott Morris in

determined mood this time around, and had to give best to his rival in the opening heats before coming good in the third. In the final, however, it took Chell just three laps to hit the front and, despite Morris remaining glued to his rear bumper and setting a new lap record in pursuit, he held on to claim victory by a tenth of a second. Ryan Jones took third place.

After the frustration of seeing his February chances ended on the dummy grid, Lewis Malin was another on a March mission in Minimax. With just Rob Ellis for opposition, he claimed the first two heats, and returned to top spot in the final, winning by a couple of seconds as he gave chase to the leading TKM runners.

Senior Honda numbers improved again for the second meeting of the season and, with Chris Lipscomb back in the mix, the anticipation of competition between no fewer than five class champions was mouth-watering.

As it turned out, however, no-one could challenge reigning number one Simon Evans, who not only swept all four races, but also blitzed Lipscomb's lap record, which had only been set at the end of last season. To make matters worse for the Silver Fox Racing driver, he also found himself missing the final due to damage sustained in heat three, leaving it to Gareth Lewis, Hugh Jones and Paul Saunders to lead the pursuit of Evans.

In the end, it was for-

mer heavyweight champ Jones, continuing his unexpectedly strong start to the campaign, who finished best of the rest, and ahead of Lewis, as Evans strengthened his championship position with a two-second victory.

Junior Rotax again proved to be the domain of Macaulay Austin who, despite dropping the opening heat to James Johnson, then remained unbeaten for the rest of the day. Although not running away with the final, the much-decorated racer held a comfortable two-second advantage at the flag, as Dean Clayton – who hadn't featured in the top three in the heats – and Matt Ryder completed the podium.

Johnson, who lost second and third positions on the same lap, finished fifth behind Jordan Hawkins.

After dominating on his Senior Max debut at Llandow, reigning Junior champion Josh Collings proved that his form was no fluke by winning three of the four races, and setting a new class lap record as he stroled to victory in the final for the second month running.

Behind him, Chris Davis and Craig Mooney, Collings' most consistent rivals in the heats, completed the podium after running second and third throughout the final, while Matthew Dowers had to make do with fourth, despite tailing the pair for all twelve laps.

Wayne Stone again found strong opposition in the Max 177 class

and, despite rewriting the lap record, was unable to overcome Simon Wheeler at any point.

## RESULTS

**BAMBINO** – 1, Max Fenlon (Birel); 2, George Alp-Williams (CRG); 3, Alex Austin (Zip).

**CADET HONDA** – 1, Brandon Patrick (Project One); 2, Ryan Edwards (Project One); 3, Hugo Holmes (Zip).

**CADET COMER** – 1, Lewis Griffiths (Zip); 2, Isaac Channing (Zip); 3, Jack Barber (BRM).

**JUNIOR HONDA** – 1, Daniel Jones (MS); 2, Monty Gorridge (7Kart); 3, Danny Griffiths (MS).

**JUNIOR TKM** – 1, Ross Chell (Jade); 2, Scott Morris (Tonykart); 3, Ryan Jones (Intrepid).

**MINI MAX** – 1, Lewis Malin (Tonykart); 2, Rob Ellis (Tonykart).

**SENIOR HONDA** – 1, Simon Evans (7Kart); 2, Hugh Jones (MS); 3, Gareth Lewis (7Kart).

**JUNIOR ROTAX** – 1, Macaulay Austin (Exprit); 2, Dean Clayton (Alonso); 3, Matt Ryder (Kosmic).

**SENIOR ROTAX** – 1, Josh Collings (CRG); 2, Chris Davis (Storm); 3, Craig Mooney (CRG).

**ROTAX 177** – 1, Simon Wheeler (CRG); 2, Wayne Stone (CRG). Best Novice: Joe Pritchard (Honda Cadet); Driver of the Day: Simon Evans (Senior Honda).

**REPORT: CRAIG LLEWELLYN**

**PHOTO: HARDY RODDE**

## Win a copy of horse racing book

**THE Glamorgan GEM has teamed up with Blenheim Press Ltd, who are giving readers a chance to win a copy of Bob Butchers' horse-racing book 'Silks, Soaks and Certainties'.**

Described by The GEM's racing correspondent Brian Lee as "one of the best horse-racing books I have read in years," this book takes a light-hearted look at the racing scene and will appeal to all who are racing 'buffs' and many who are not.

The tale of a family whose links with racing have spanned more than a century is packed with many wonderful evocative accounts of incidents and characters of yesteryear; some of the

activities would, to say the least, be frowned on today.

Bob Butchers was the original newsboy on the Daily Mirror, a post he filled with distinction for almost 39 years.

To have a chance of winning one of the two copies that are up for grabs, just answer the following question:

**Last year's Grand National winner Don't Push It was ridden by:**

**A. Tony McCoy**

**B. Paul Moloney**

Please address all entries to: Grand National Book Competition, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, with your full name and address, along with a telephone number, no later than Friday, April 8.

Good luck!

**BRIAN LEE**

## Maizy Missile speeds home

**MRS Mary Evans's nine-year-old bay mare Maizy Missile was a three lengths winner of the handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot.**

*Confidently ridden by Paul Moloney, home-bred Maizy Missile was made a 5-1 favourite and came home three lengths ahead of Mr Bachster.*

*Mrs Evans, a former point-to-point rider of note, hails from Llancarfan and farms in Pembrokeshire with her second husband Bill Evans.*

*Her son, Evan Williams, had an across the card double on Saturday.*

*At Bangor-on-Dee, his Chrysander won the opener under Aidan Conlan and at Stratford-on-Avon, his Penelope Pips, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, won the bumper (National Hunt flat race) by a head from Dazzling Rita.*

**BRIAN LEE**

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## Lions keep warm!



**ABOVE: The team are pictured with their new hoodies**

## Ladies' golf season is now underway

**ONE of the rounds of the Mail on Sunday was played at Southerndown on March 20 – Southerndown (ladies) v Pyle and Kenfig.**

Southerndown won. Congratulations to the team and good luck in the next round.

Also, one of the Daily Mail rounds was played

at Southerndown on March 17. Two ladies from St. Mary's Golf Club played Dawn Austin and Chris Evans – Dawn and Chris won 3 and 1. Congratulations to them and good luck in the next round.

The Coronation Foursomes was played on March 21 and the winners were Jean Broughton (captain) and Liz Dodd.

**PARK LIONS under-13s would like to say a big thank you to Just 4 Let for buying hoodies to keep them warm.**

Since it's been a cold few months training outside, these have been invaluable.

*For more information on the club please contact Kim on 01446 738486.*



# GEM sport

## SPEED'S NEW ERA GETS A REALITY CHECK FROM ENGLISH NEIGHBOURS

**FOR Wales, 2011 is the start of a new era. With a thus-far pointless European Championship campaign having seen off John Toshack, and defeats against Bulgaria and Switzerland spoiling Brian Flynn's claims to succeed him, the Welsh FA has turned to Gary Speed.**

A four-month spell in the particularly hot-seat of Sheffield United has been the limit of Speed's experience, a reign that hardly set the world alight, and the novice manager could have hoped for a gentler introduction into competitive international football than England at home.

It was a task made all the more difficult with Gareth Bale's

withdrawal on Thursday with a hamstring injury, but as new captain Aaron Ramsey led his team out to do battle with 'the neighbours', there was an air perhaps more of hope than expectation engulfing a sold-out Millennium Stadium.

That hope lasted all of five minutes, as Wales, who began far more nervously than their counterparts, conceded a penalty. Ashley Young evaded his club teammate James Collins, only for the Welshman to make an ungainly challenge on him in the box; the referee had little hesitation in pointing to the spot, and Frank Lampard converted.

With a good start hugely important, this setback seemed to shake the Welsh players, who were unable to get the ball out of their own half. The task was

made all the more difficult when Glen Johnson's exquisite pass found man of the match Young, and his low cross was tapped in by Darren Bent to give England a two goal cushion after only 15 minutes.

With the sell-out crowd deflated, and Wales struggling to impose themselves, the remainder of the half saw neither team really threaten, with England easing up and Wales failing to get going.

With playmaker and captain Aaron Ramsey being forced deep to get the ball, and then being marshalled superbly by Scott Parker, Wales went in at the break having achieved nothing.

The second half performance was at least livelier from the men in red, and their first half

chance came on 53 minutes, Bellamy lifting the ball behind Ashley Cole, but Andy King blasted wide.

Their best chance came seven minutes later. Ramsey's through ball found Morrison in the penalty area, but hesitation and the attention of John Terry meant the Millwall striker couldn't get a shot away.

With the arrival of David Vaughan and Ched Evans, on for King and Morrison, giving Wales more impetus going forward, Ramsey had more time to affect the game, but again the lack of quality at vital times put paid to any notion of an unlikely, and undeserved, comeback.

Put simply, Wales were not at the races on a day when they should have been, not only in terms of who the opposition

were but also in terms of breaking their duck in the qualifying group.

Poor performances and Speed's managerial naivety only exacerbated matters against an England team who did enough to win at a canter without really breaking a sweat.

Why Speed opted for Andrew Crofts in the midfield instead of David Vaughn, who has been one of the Premier League's best performers this season, beggars belief, as does the inability to grasp that Ramsey would be unable to impact on the game if he wasn't given the time and space he needed.

Much like the situation their rugby counterparts found themselves in, picking up a win would be a vital confidence boost for a team who have tasted

victory only once in the last eight games, and whose next competitive game comes in September with a home tie against the surprise package of the group, Montenegro, before a visit to Wembley four days later.

Defeat in those games, while not a disaster, would be a further knock for a team whose lack of quality and ability was exposed on Saturday.

While, like previous managers, Speed has said that qualification for the 2014 World Cup is his main aim rather than Euro 2012, he shouldn't take his eyes too far off the present situation – otherwise things may get a lot worse before they get better.

GARETH JAMIESON

## COWBRIDGE LEFT BATTERED AND BRUISED IN WATTSTOWN

**ON Saturday, Cowbridge ventured into the Rhondda Fach and came away with a hefty 66-8 defeat to Wattstown.**

It was Cowbridge who were first to score with a Huw Moorcraft penalty within the first

few minutes, but that was as good as it got as by the midpoint of the half Wattstown had scored three tries.

With five minutes to half time, they had scored two more, with their inside centre and openside flanker bagging a brace each. With Wattstown attacking and good

defence, the ball came to Ian Overton on the wing.

He spun to the left and then went outside his winger, setting off on a 70-metre run to the line.

Unfortunately, he aggravated his hamstring injury and had to come off, but managed the touchdown.

Huw Moorcraft's conversion from the touchline hit the post, and Damian Cottle replaced Overton.

Half time, 26-8.

In to the second half, second row Morgan Long aggravated his shoulder injury and was replaced by Alun John.

Wattstown's No 7 got his third try and then Idi Hamner was replaced at flanker by Steff Kitchen, and minutes later scrum half Tom Hanks gave way to Dewi Edwards.

Wattstown scored again but a very harsh yellow card for full back Tom Cross for apparent verbal abuse reduced Cowbridge to 14 men.

More injuries followed as outside half Huw Lougher and then hooker Jack Williams had to come to the sidelines, Rob Bowden and Idi Hamner replacing them.

With 14 men, Cowbridge's defence

was very good but in the last ten minutes, Wattstown crossed the whitewash four more times, one of those being a fourth try for their impressive No 7.

Sometimes you have to acknowledge a very good performance by your opponents and then put the result behind you and prepare for the next game.

The referee wasn't kind to Cowbridge, but that had nothing to do with the result. Thanks to Nick Jones, emergency physio and adviser to the referee, who was certainly kept busy patching up

the injured.

The next games are critical, so will all available players please report for duty.

Our situation at the wrong end of the table must improve, and only the players can do anything about it.

On Saturday, we entertain Cilfynydd at home, kick off 2.30pm, then Old Pens on April 16 at Penarth, kick off again at 2.30pm.

All support would be most welcome and appreciated; as we saw at Wattstown, a big enthusiastic crowd can lift the players.

RV/RK

## Tennis ladies continue their winning form

**THE ladies team at Cowbridge Tennis Club have continued their winning form throughout the winter.**

Playing from October through to March in the Cymru Kitchen Winter League, they have won 7 of their 10 matches to finish top of Division 3, ahead of teams from Bridgend, Abergavenny, Glamorgan Esportia, David Lloyd and Stow Park.

The squad of 12 ladies have been a hardy

bunch, and the recent spell of dry weather has brought a sunny finish to the end of their winter matches.

The club is holding an opening day on Saturday, April 2 from 2pm to celebrate the start of the new season and new players are warmly invited to come along.

For the juniors, there will be two Easter coaching camps; for more details contact Sarah (membership) on 775800 or Steve (coaching) on 07976836249.

AK

## Cricket team's sport link-up



ABOVE: Kitted out for the new season!

**IN preparation for the 2011 cricket season, local sports retailer Jensen Sports has linked up with Cowbridge Cricket Club to support their junior development.**

New sponsored shirts will be available and a Jensen Sports 'kit' stall will be set up for the junior cricket open day at 10.30am on Sunday,

April 10 at Cowbridge Cricket Club.

Nick Keating from the Cowbridge Cricket Club commented: "This is an important initiative because the juniors are the future first team players at Cowbridge. Working with Jensen Sports, we can help the children feel confident and look the part and are all now looking forward to a hot cricket summer!"

NK



## Steve's London Marathon on behalf of Marie Curie

**LLANBLETHIAN resident, Steve Powell, is training hard for the London Marathon which is being held on April 17.**

Having already completed marathons in Cardiff, Dublin and London, Steve is looking to complete the 26 miles in just over four hours.

He is running for the Marie Curie Cancer Care unit in Penarth, and Vale residents wanting to sponsor him can do so through his website, where donations can be made online.

The address is [www.justgiving.com/stephen-powell](http://www.justgiving.com/stephen-powell), or sponsorship forms can be obtained direct from Steve on 01446 771683.

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